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The Magnificent Nobility

A History of
Woman's Missionary Union
of North Carolina 1952-1972

Kate C. Maddy Crouch

THE MAGNIFICENT
"NOBILITY

*A History of
Woman's Missionary Union
of
North Carolina
1952-1972*

by
KATE C. MADDY CROUCH

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Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina
Auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention
Raleigh

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FORWARD

The Magnificent Nobility is a history, not *the* history of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. It relates only in part to her noble work and her noble workers over a relatively short period (1952-1972). It is only a partial history of an organization composed of individuals who have prayed, worked, and sacrificed in sharing themselves and their possessions for the cause of missions. Therefore, not every important event is recorded; neither is the name of every "important" person mentioned. Another author might have made a different selection of events and persons.

After many months of research and prayer, the inspiration for the name of this book and the titles for the various chapters emerged from Miss Fannie E. S. Heck's last message to the WMU "delegates" meeting in Annual Session in New Bern, March, 1915. Miss Heck was the first president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina.

Consideration was given to the selection of plans and events which seemed most relevant to a continuing missionary endeavor in promoting missionary fundamentals particularly in the fifties and early sixties, and as they now pertain to Woman's Missionary Union's being a program of a church. No effort was made to include names of persons except as they fell naturally into the development of the selected events and plan of work. Some persons are mentioned many times; others, greatly involved in the state's missionary cooperative work, are not mentioned at all. These persons know of their contribution, and God will reward them.

While there is some overlapping, chapters one through four each roughly covers a five-year period, coinciding with the five years each president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina served (1952-1972). Chapter one varies to the degree that it seemed important to clarify the plan of work which was followed prior to 1952. Chapter five tells of the care and inspiration offered by the mother organization in guiding the missionary training of her children and young people during the service of all the presidents. Chapter six is the "now" of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, the end product of achievements of all leaders and members of Woman's Missionary Union from professional to the local level.

If the pages in this book can help you, the reader, to learn and understand something of the missionary purpose which prompted the setting of challenging goals; if you can appreciate the hard work of professional and voluntary leadership; if you can feel something of the excitement and thanksgiving I have felt for what has been accomplished through Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina; if you want more than ever to pray, work, and sacrificially share your possessions that Christ may be preached in North Carolina and to the whole world, then this history is MY "magnificent nobility."

Dedicated

to the memory of my mother,

Mary F. Longest Chenault of King and Queen County, Virginia

She took me as a little girl with her regularly to “my missionary society” (via horse and buggy), explaining what I heard as we drove home, then demonstrating what she explained through sacrificial giving.

AUTHOR



Kate C. Maddry Crouch

In the State WMU Executive Board meeting of May 13, 1970, Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath, Jr. of Charlotte brought a recommendation that the history of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina be updated. She suggested that a committee be appointed to select a writer, approve the manuscript, and oversee the production of the book. Mrs. R. Knolan Benfield, president, appointed three Board members to serve on the committee, Mrs. Gilreath, chairperson, Mrs. Gilmer Cross, Goldsboro and Mrs. W. K. McGee, Winston-Salem.

At the January 6, 1971 meeting of the Executive Board, Mrs. Gilreath reported that Mrs. W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh had been secured as writer of the book.

Mrs. Crouch knew the history of NC WMU from the inside. She had served in many WMU leadership positions in church and associational WMU work. She served as a regional superintendent of the Raleigh region and on the state WMU Executive Board as director of the division of mission study. She is probably best known to NC WMU members for her participation in mission study. For many years she served as a writer for Royal Service. For several years she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in publications.

Mrs. Crouch presented the manuscript as a gift to Woman's Missionary Union in the Annual Session in Charlotte in 1975. The Manuscript was Mrs. Crouch's tangible gift to WMU. Her years of devotion to the organization and her many hours of service are her greatest gift.

SARA ANN HOBBS
Executive Director, 1968-1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge with deep appreciation the confidence placed in me by Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, especially the committee to secure a writer for this period of history: Mrs. Frank Gilreath, chairman, Mrs. Gilmer Cross, and Mrs. W. K. McGee. The privilege of "living in the past" with noble women of vision and dedication has brought me a very special blessing. I also am grateful to this committee for their careful reading of the manuscript and for their helpful suggestions. In addition, special thanks is due Mrs. Gilreath who has had the responsibility of helping to work out details for publication.

I am indebted also to Executive Secretary, Sara Ann Hobbs for her reading and helpful suggestions. I acknowledge the fine spirit in which she and her entire staff provided space in the WMU office for the time I needed to be close to records and files, and for their cooperation in helping me to find them.

I am indebted to Ruth Williams and Bill Boatwright for their reading of the manuscript and for their encouragement. Mr. Boatwright gave cheerfully of his time in reading, making suggestions, and doing the final editing.

I am grateful to the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board for furnishing a list of North Carolina missionaries appointed by them since 1952.

Gratitude is due also to my husband for his patience and understanding while I must have neglected some aspects of my home-making.

Chapter I

The Magnificent Nobility of Work

“My father worketh hitherto, and I work.”

John 5:17.

IT seems impossible that a history, covering any period of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, could be written without paying tribute to the name and influence of Fannie Exile Scudder Heck. Her admonition to plan “not for the year, but for the years,” has continued to inspire the thinking and planning of the Union leadership through the years from the state level down to the local organizations.

According to Miss Heck, North Carolina's first state president, at the heart of every plan and program of work is the compelling desire to share Jesus Christ with others. “Strive for the conversion of those around you as faithfully as for the heathen,” was her ultimate reason for the existence of Woman's Missionary Union. In seeking to emphasize this concern among the women she loved, she said, “I wish I might impress upon you the magnificent nobility of work in which we as missionary societies are engaged.”

A Noble History

Hitherto, written by Mrs. Foy J. Farmer and published in 1952, is a delightful history of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina from the beginning of the Woman's Central Committee of Missions of North Carolina in 1886 (forerunner of Woman's Missionary Union), through the year 1951. Since Mrs. Farmer personally had known, or viewed the development and growth of this missionary organization from its early years, she was the special person chosen for the work of compiling a history of the North Carolina WMU. Mrs. Farmer highlighted through facts and figures

the missionary fervor of dedicated leaders, both professional and volunteer. She revealed the secret of their courage. She elevated the service of women in local societies and recognized the value and the imperative of humble women, known only to God, who consistently pray and faithfully and sacrificially share their possessions for the advance of missions. She challenged Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina to continue to proclaim that Christ is Lord! Mrs. Farmer's own devotion to God's Word, her love for people, her faithfulness, her contributions, accomplishments and influence have become North Carolina's heritage.

Ruth Provence, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union of South Carolina, former executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina during Mrs. Farmer's presidency, participated in the Memorial Tribute made to Mrs. Farmer at the WMU Annual Session in March, 1972. Miss Provence said, "At the time of Mrs. Farmer's retirement from office note was taken of the unusual growth which had come during her presidency: a gain of over 29,000 members and over 1,400 organizations. Mission study classes had more than doubled in number. Tithers had more than tripled. Annual gifts had climbed from \$338,000 to beyond \$922,000."

A Noble Dream

Framed and hanging in the office of the executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is Miss Heck's farewell message in her own handwriting. Written from her hospital bed in Richmond, Virginia, she opened up her heart to the women of North Carolina, meeting in annual session in New Bern, March, 1915. Fully aware that her leadership had been terminated, (29 years president of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union) her confident "I can dream of your future with a trusting heart," still serves as a reminder, a gentle prodder, an inspiration to those who now serve through Woman's Missionary Union. Then, as if to strengthen their own faith in the future of North Carolina missionary endeavor, permeated with love, understanding, and experience, Miss Heck made some predictions and goal-wise admonitions:

"Changes will come; new faces take the place of old, new and broader plans succeed those of today; but our beloved Union is safe in our Master's care.

"See to it, only, that you listen to his voice and follow where Christ leads.

"Be gentle in your personal lives, faithful and shining.

"Be joyful, knowing his purposes are good, not evil, to his children.

"Be patient and persistent in your fulfillment.

"Endeavor to see the needs of the world from God's standpoint.

"Plan not for the year, but for the years.

"Think long thoughts.

"Strive for the conversion of those around you as faithfully as for the heathen.

"Train the children for world-wide service.

“Lead the young women gently into places of joyous responsibility.

“Bring all your powers into the best service of the best king.

“Thus shall your work abide and be abundantly blessed of God to your own joy and the joy of the world.

“In the belief that you will continue to adore the doctrine of service, I bid you dear friends, farewell.”

The spiritual qualities Miss Heck coveted for her beloved women were fresh, adequate and in keeping with Woman’s Missionary Union’s reason for being. Fifty-seven years later these spiritual qualities are still to be desired — still fresh, exciting, challenging! The endeavors in recent years to see the needs of the world from God’s standpoint and efforts actively to meet some of these needs, very appropriately have been inspired by the spirit of this farewell message.

The work of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina, prayerfully planned, promoted, and carried through by the wisdom and skill of dedicated leadership during the past twenty years (1952-1972) is her *Magnificent Nobility!*

A Noble Purpose

As early as 1930, in her presidential message to the Annual Session, Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. W. N. Jones) emphasized the purpose of Woman’s Missionary Union to be that of “stimulating the entire church in its missionary thought and activity.”

By 1952, the constitution of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina contained a threefold objective:

1. To stimulate a broader Christian development on the part of women and young people of the state to train and enlist all in Christian service, especially soul-winning;

2. To receive and distribute missionary information, to promote missionary organizations among women and young people;

3. To encourage the earnest co-operation of women and young people in systematic contribution of money for missions at home and abroad.

The 1956-57 *Guide Book*, published by Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina reads:

The purpose of Woman’s Missionary Union shall be to emulate the spirit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to stimulate the missionary spirit and the grace of giving among women and youth of Baptist churches of North Carolina, to enlist women and youth in a definite study of and vital participation in missions; to ingather missionary gifts, to be disbursed by Woman’s Missionary Union, the General Board of the Baptist State Convention and the mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The *Guide Book*, revised in 1967, further states:

The purpose of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina shall be to help the Baptist churches of the state to fulfill their mission by inspiring, informing and training the associational and local WMU

leadership; to teach missions, lead persons to participate in missions, provide organization and leadership for special mission projects of the churches, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the Baptist denomination to the women, girls and children under nine years of age.

A Change, and the 1970 WMU By-laws reads:

The purpose shall be to promote Christian missions by training the associational and church WMU leadership to teach missions, engage in mission action, support world missions through praying and giving, and provide and interpret information regarding the work of the Baptist denomination to the women, girls, and children under 6 years of age.

A comparison of these stated purposes, developed in a specific way over the past twenty years, shows a change in words but reveals the same steady, basic spirit. The meaning seems to be that every woman, young person and child can hope to have some part in winning the world to Christ. Or, scrutinizing the change in wording during these 20 years, the present purpose seems to be found in Sallie Bailey Jones' expressed idea in 1930 of "stimulating the entire church in its missionary thought and activity."

A Noble Band of Workers

From executive secretaries to state presidents, to office secretaries to part-time workers to voluntary workers, each through the years has served faithfully and contributed to the success, growth, and spiritual influence of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina.

The Executive Secretary

Constant at the helm in Raleigh was the executive secretary, Ruth Provence, dedicated promoter of missions, counselor, friend and leader. Coming to serve North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union in September, 1946, she worked diligently through the years giving her last report in 1955. Miss Provence was never too tired or too busy to give time and show concern to persons who were willing to share their burdens with her. Ever conscious of the presence of God and his love and power and comfort, she herself brought others to believe in his adequacy. She believed completely in the partnership that existed between God and those who wanted to follow him. In her thinking, every activity in the name of Christ became a "together effort." She believed that miracles could be performed through dedication and intercessory prayer of the humblest of individuals. Humble and dedicated herself, she lived and left this example to North Carolina as she returned to South Carolina to serve as executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union.

Other Elected Personnel

In addition to the executive secretary other persons elected to places of leadership by vote of delegates to the Annual Session and serving in 1952 were: President, first-, second-, third-vice-presidents, treasurer, record-



Ruth Provence, executive secretary 1946-1955

ing secretary, assistant recording secretary, Young People's Secretary, Royal Ambassador Secretary, Field Representatives (2), Community Missions Chairman, Mission Study Chairman, Stewardship Chairman, WMU Training School Trustee, Margaret Fund Chairman, Chairman of State Federation of Baptist Business Women.

The New President (1951-1956)

Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey of Ahoskie was elected as the new president of Woman's Mission Union of North Carolina in March, 1951. A graduate of Meredith College, already known and loved as state mission study chairman for five years, her enthusiasm and interest for missions were evident. She carried within her a vivacious spirit and striking leadership qualities which were manifested through her years of service ending in March, 1956. Her boundless energy was contagious, even to the voluntary workers of Woman's Missionary Union. She had the capacity through "the President's Message" at each Annual Session to inspire, inform, and motivate women to higher levels of achievements. In particular, she called the women to faithfulness to the Weeks of Prayer, to study, and to sharing of possessions. According to her, "Study helps ask not how much shall I give, but how much CAN I give?"

In addition to the Chairmen of Mission Study, Community Missions, and



Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey, president 1951-1956

Stewardship, who are named under "Noble Missionary Fundamentals," elected in 1952 to serve with Mrs. Maddrey were:

First Vice-President, Mrs. Leland Kitchen of Scotland Neck; Second Vice-President, Mrs. R. B. Wilkins of Durham; Third Vice-President, Mrs. E. B. Beasley of Fountain; Treasurer, Mrs. W. I. Powell of Raleigh; Recording Secretary, Mrs. B. Y. Tyner of Raleigh; Assistant Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. T. Gwin of Durham; Young People's Secretary, Marie Epley of Raleigh; Royal Ambassador Secretary, B. W. Jackson of Raleigh; W.M.U. Training School Trustee, Mrs. F. O. Mixon, Murfreesboro; Margaret Fund Chairman, Mrs. L. R. Harrill; Chm. State Federation of Baptist Women, Mrs. Hugh Page, Greensboro; Field Representatives: Mrs. John Wacaster, Cherryville; Janet Wilson, Raleigh.

A Noble Challenge

In the very beginning of her service, Mrs. Maddrey challenged Baptist women to take seriously their missions leadership role in the local church. She stressed the necessity for conviction and commitment if the people of the world are to know Christ. She called attention to a lack on the part of WMU members to stimulate "the entire church to the urgency of bringing the world to Christ."

In her presidential message at the Annual Session meeting in Durham in 1952, she said, "The kindling of missionary interest through the spread of missionary information continues to be a major need in our work."

Mrs. Maddrey also called for the dedication of efforts to a greater support of the Cooperative Program (the Conventions' unified mission budget) and of the State Convention's Nine-Year Program of Advance "thereby making possible our reaching to bring the whole world to Christ." (The Nine-Year Program of Advance was a program adopted by the Baptist State Convention in 1951 which, if supported, would mean greater undergirding for all denominational work.)

"Crown Him Lord"

In addition to an inspiring program on the theme, "Crown Him Lord" (1952), the spirit of this session was revealed in other ways. For example, three resolutions were presented and adopted, all indicating the social consciousness of the 2,360 visitors and delegates.

First, they voted to request the North Carolina Historical Association to discontinue the Sunday showing of the pageant, "Unto These Hills." The showing of this pageant seemed a demoralization of Sunday, particularly as it affected the worship in churches on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Believing that the nomination of an ambassador to the Vatican would be in direct opposition to the principle of religious liberty and separation of church and state, the second resolution opposed such an appointment. A copy of this resolution was sent to the President.

In the third resolution, the Woman's Missionary Union voted to commend heartily Congress for the introduction of the bill (S. 2444) which would forbid the advertising of hard intoxicants over radio and television and urgently called upon congressmen to use their influence in the passage of this bill.

Another matter of special interest at the Annual Session was the announcement that the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering had reached \$35,414.17 and the voting of \$5,000 from this offering to be designated as a gift to make possible a new building for the Maizuru Kindergarten in Fukuoka, Japan. This gift was made in honor of Mrs. Foy J. Farmer, past president, who had served as a missionary in Japan.

Additional Resolutions — 1953

The 1,648 delegates and visitors in Annual Session in Wilmington, North Carolina (March 10-12) adopted two resolutions:

First, a resolution was passed expressing opposition to the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican. This resolution further asked the federal government "not to consider such an appointment under any circumstances, and thus by positive action of a chief executive of the United States of America reaffirm faith in one of the founding principles of this country."

The second resolution came as a result of the repeal of the 18th amendment to the Constitution of the United States returning the regulation and

control of whisky traffic to the several states. In view of the fact that with this return, the people of North Carolina had not been given opportunity to express themselves, request was made to give this opportunity through a statewide referendum.

Girls Auxiliary Ruby Anniversary

Woman's Missionary Union was proud to recognize the Ruby Anniversary of the organization of Girls Auxiliary, promoting the "Four Goals for Forty" which had been set for attainment by the girls during their fortieth anniversary.

Special recognition was also given at the Annual Session in Wilmington in 1953, through a pageant, "Thy Light," commemorating the anniversary, presented by the Wilmington Baptist churches.

Changes and Progress

The years 1952 and 1953 have been described by "old WMUers" as years of many changes and great progress. The year 1952 was the beginning of the new "organizational year" (October to October). The change was in line with the decision of Southern Baptist WMU. In her 1953 report to the Annual Session, Miss Provence reported that the October to October basis of work had proved highly satisfactory, all adjustments necessitated by the change had been made, and things were moving smoothly, and effectively.

On January 1, 1952, Marie Epley, field representative, was elected as Young People's Secretary to succeed Hilda Mayo. In June, 1952, Janet Wilson of Bagdad, Florida succeeded Miss Epley as field representative. Mrs. W. R. Powell resigned as treasurer and was succeeded by Mrs. A. R. Brasher in 1952, and Mrs. L. R. Harrill completed ten years on the Southern Baptist WMU Margaret Fund Committee (fund for education of children of missionaries).

Growth was evidenced in 1952-53 in the departments of Mission Study, Community Missions, and Stewardship. One hundred and thirty organizations came into being, and more than 3,000 additional women were reported as giving regularly through the Cooperative Program. Five thousand forty-two new tithers were reported during the year, and an increase of 508 WMU organizations engaged in community missions.

The North Carolina WMU attained the Standard of Excellence requirement, and special recognition was given to 50 Woman's Missionary Societies for reaching the Standard of Excellence. Four WMU's achieved the high record of A-1 Full graded WMU: Blackwell Memorial Church, Elizabeth City, Chowan Association; Providence and Sharron Churches, Flat River Association; and Erlanger Church, Liberty Association.

Several associations missed reaching A-1 attainment on the Standard of Excellence by only one point. Five associations reached all points on the associational Standard of Excellence. They were: Blue Ridge, Mrs. H. W. Stough, WMU superintendent; Columbus, Mrs. S. B. Pierce, WMU superintendent; Raleigh, Mrs. W. M. Page, WMU superintendent; South

Fork, Mrs. Robert Boatwright, WMU superintendent; and Wilmington, Mrs. William Bryce, WMU superintendent.

In that same year, 1952, Cooperative Program gifts were reported in a different manner. Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, no longer requested a record of mission gifts from the various states, causing the North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union to discontinue the request that local organizations submit their record of gifts. Greater emphasis was placed on enlisting and challenging increased support of denominational and missionary needs through a more consistent support of the Cooperative Program.

The year 1952 also showed an increase in missionary societies observing the Seasons of Prayer which resulted in a large increase in special offerings.

A Noble Plan of Work

The plans and methods used in 1952 were those published by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and those found in the WMU *Guide Book* for Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. The *Guide Book* was designed to supplement the *Year Book* and the *Manual* of Woman's Missionary Union. The *Guide Book* not only served as an aid to local organizations, but also outlined special duties of associational and divisional officers. A free copy was made available to each WMS president, young people's director and counselor and also to each associational and divisional officer.

Prior to 1950, the plan of work suggested in the *Guide Book* was formulated by the North Carolina WMU Executive Council which met in the autumn and in the spring preceding the Annual Session. In 1950, the Executive Council was authorized to adopt Woman's Missionary Union, SBC plan. After that, the *Guide Book* incorporated the spirit of this plan, and other plans most suited to needs of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. However, as the years passed, and the work became more familiar, by 1958 it was felt that the *Guide Book* was no longer needed.

The guide and organizational plans for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC became in 1911 the Standard of Excellence and remained so until 1956. During these years Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina adopted this standard, incorporated its plan of work, and faithfully promoted the ten idealistic and challenging points. It is of interest to note that the last year of the Standard of Excellence in North Carolina, honorable mention was given to 261 A-1 organizations and special fanfare to two A-1, Full-graded WMU organizations: Snyder Memorial Church, Fayetteville, New South River Association, and Harris Chapel, Hollister, Tar River Association.

In 1952, the Plan of Work placed strong emphasis on the requirements of the Standard of Excellence with regard to stewardship and set as a goal 75 percent of the members contributing regularly through the Cooperative Program; a 10 percent increase in the number of tithers reported at the close of the preceding year; and an offering during each season of prayer for missions — foreign, home, and state.

The Plan of Work also stressed the use of the best up-to-date methods for

promoting every facet of WMU projected endeavors, including new techniques in enlistment, missionary fundamentals, missionary education of young people, Christian education, and the support of benevolent institutions. These institutions included the Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem (now North Carolina Baptist Hospitals, Inc.), orphanages at Thomasville, Kinston, and Pembroke (now Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.), and Resthaven, Winston-Salem (now North Carolina Baptist Homes, Inc.).

For many years local societies were encouraged to contribute linens and bandages to the hospital at Winston-Salem. Many women still carry fond memories of fellowship and a sharing of self as they met in groups to make these needed items.

The Cooperative Program.

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has cooperated with the Baptist State Convention in support of the Cooperative Program since the beginning of this unified budget plan in 1925. Baptist women believed with others that only through the Cooperative Program can every Baptist have a part in carrying out the plan of Christ as set forth in the Great Commission. Thus in 1952, the Union gave special support to this "lifeline" of all Southern Baptist work in a special effort to cooperate with the adopted Nine-Year Program of support of all denominational work, beginning in the local church and reaching out to touch the world for Christ.

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina was "directed toward enlisting every member of every missionary organization and of every young people's organization in regular continuous support of missions, Christian education, and benevolence through the channel of the Cooperative Program." Furthermore, Woman's Missionary Union was so zealous in the promotion and support of giving through this channel that records of women's and young people's gifts were carefully forwarded to the Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Alabama.

Reading of Missionary Magazines

Another emphasis came through a strong appeal for the reading of missionary magazines: *The Commission*, (foreign mission magazine), *Southern Baptist Home Missions*, *World Comrades* (for GA's), *Ambassador Life* (for RA's), *The Window of Y.W.A.*, and *Royal Service*. In Miss Provence's 1952 report to the Annual Session, she said:

"Contributing greatly to the larger vision which has made possible this good year were the many copies of *Royal Service* which found their way month by month into North Carolina. With a state goal of 25,250, by the end of the year 30,244 subscriptions were received in Birmingham from North Carolina. This number almost equaled the number of subscriptions received from the State of Texas."

The year 1953 was also a good one; however, the goal of 29,302 subscriptions was not reached. In 1955, *Royal Service* subscriptions climbed from 25,661 to 28,302.

Enlistment

Although enlistment had been emphasized since the very beginning of Woman's Missionary Union, it was not until 1951 that it became personalized with a state chairman. Upon recommendation of the Executive Council, and vote of Woman's Missionary Union in session, the first vice-president of the state was asked to serve as enlistment chairman. Mrs. Leland Kitchen, Sr., Scotland Neck, was elected to this office in March, 1951. She began immediately to give herself to the task of arousing interest in additional organizations. She made associational leaders as well as local leaders aware that there were 2,998 churches in North Carolina and only 1,748 Woman's Missionaries Societies, thus, nearly 1,200 churches with no missionary organization. Mrs. Kitchen began diligently to contact pastors, associational leaders, and to set up conferences on enlistment. These efforts brought about 102 new societies during the first year, a net gain of 302 young people's organizations.

Divisional and associational leaders were encouraged to take definite goals for gains in societies and young people's organizations. She further promoted enlistment by urging all societies to observe WMS Focus Week each January, with emphasis upon enlistment and the development of interest in all phases of WMU work, suggesting that all societies have an enlistment committee composed of the first vice-president as chairman, the Young People's Director, and a member from each circle. By 1954-55, two definite phases of WMU enlistment were stressed, relating to membership of already existing organizations and to the forming of additional organizations. Mrs. Kitchen felt that full participation of members required interesting programs and the contacting of absentees.

In 1955, Mrs. Kitchen reported:

Since 1951, there has been a steady growth in both churches and societies, for at the WMU Annual Session in March, 1955, we were able to report 3,141 churches, a gain of 143 in four years; also 2,102 Woman's Missionary Societies, or a net gain of 354 in the same period. In spite of this growth, however, we are still faced with the responsibility of 1,039 churches in our state convention that have no organized missionary work for their women or youth.

In an effort to reach these churches our associations have taken the goals for a net gain of organizations. If each association will reach its goal, the total will be 786 new organizations.

Christian Education

Prominent in the Plan of Work of Woman's Missionary Union in the early fifties was "Christian Education." The women were urged to give prayer support to the WMU Training School (later Carver School of Missions and Social Work), other schools for specialized training, and Baptist colleges. Financial support was given to students seeking Christian education through the following means:

The Margaret Fund was raised by requesting each society to send three dollars to the associational Margaret Fund chairman, who would in turn

forward the money to the state WMU treasurer. The money was then used to provide scholarships for the children of home and foreign missionaries attending colleges, WMU Training School, and seminaries in the United States.

The Burney Gift Fund, named in honor of Mrs. Frank Burney, who for sixteen years served as Margaret Fund Chairman of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, was in addition to the Margaret Fund Scholarship — a gift of money, plus a birthday gift. In the early years effort was made to send gifts to all students on the date of their birthday, but because of summer months and holidays, this became impractical so by 1952 the month of February became the "birthday month" for all students. The gift has been raised through the years from \$10 to \$15 to \$25. In the beginning these funds were raised in the same manner as the Margaret Fund gifts.

Mrs. L. R. Harrill, Raleigh, state chairman for many years, and later Mrs. M. E. Wilson, Greensboro, gave many hours and received much joy in writing to the students themselves, seeing that their names were published in the *Biblical Recorder*, and urging the local societies to pray for the students and to write to them. Mrs. Harrill also served for 10 years on the Margaret Fund Committee of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Other financial aid was provided through Memorial Scholarship Funds for second-year honor students from North Carolina attending the WMU Training School.

The Layton Scholarship Fund was established in 1916 by Mrs. Joel G. Layton, Lillington, and the *Edna R. Harris Scholarship Fund* was established in 1939 in memory of Edna R. Harris, executive secretary of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, 1929-1939.

Loan funds were also made available (from the Heck-Jones Offering) for the use of North Carolina women graduate students for a period of not more than two years. Those attending Carver School of Missions and Social Work (WMU Training School) and later Southeastern Theological Seminary were granted a loan of \$350.00. Students attending New Orleans, Southern, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries were granted a loan of \$250.00.

Myrtle Hart Farmer Scholarship was established in 1920 by J. S. Farmer, honoring his first wife. The money was paid through WMU of N.C. to the college which paid the money to the recipient selected by Mr. Farmer until his death and then selected by Mrs. Foy J. Farmer, his second wife.

Overnight Leadership Institutes

Since the days of Miss Heck's leadership, institutes, for the purpose of teaching methods covering every phase of missionary work promoted through the church, have been held in North Carolina at designated times and places.

However, the first overnight leadership institute, designed to help officers and chairmen in the local society was held at Fruitland Institute (now Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and Conference Center) in 1950. Three hundred and fifty women attended.

During September, 1952, approximately 1,200 WMU workers gathered in overnight leadership institutes promoted by Woman's Missionary Union: two at Fruitland Institute, two at Campbell College, and one at Chowan College.

In 1953 overnight leadership conferences were held, reaching 1,300 different individuals.

By 1955 the six overnight leadership institutes ministered to 1,662 persons seeking help and inspiration. North Carolina was fortunate to have the late Mrs. William McMurry, secretary, Department of Missionary Fundamentals, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, as guest speaker. She gave unstintingly of her time and shared her missionary fervor and wisdom both from the platform and through individual conferences.

In 1956 the six overnight Leadership Institutes drew record attendance of 2,032 workers: Alma Hunt, executive secretary, Southern Baptist WMU, and Elsie Rives, Southern Baptist WMU, Sunbeam Band Chairman, were guest speakers.

Executive Secretary Miriam Robinson, said of these institutes in her first report to Woman's Missionary Union: "Having observed them for the first time, it seems to me that this feature of the plan of work of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union is exceedingly significant."

Statewide Departmental Institutes

The first statewide Departmental Institute for all divisional and associational chairman of community missions, stewardship, and mission study was held in the First Church, Greensboro, January 29-30, 1952. The three state chairmen held simultaneous conferences, and according to Miss Provence, "the values were far-reaching." The following year the Departmental Institute was held in Winston-Salem in January.

In June, 1954, the State Departmental Institute and the Executive Council were held simultaneously at Meredith College. This proved an excellent arrangement, especially in the consideration of transportation advantages. Two hundred fifty-three persons were inspired and given practical help for the work they were elected to do. These Statewide Institutes continued through 1958.

Noble Missionary Fundamentals

A very important part of the Plan of Work, one which undergirded all Woman's Missionary Union, was "Missionary Fundamentals." In 1952, these fundamentals included: Mission Study, Stewardship, and Community Missions. Chairmen of these fundamentals were voluntary workers, elected each year at the Annual Session for a term of service not to exceed five years.

"Missionary Fundamentals" as described in this book, gives generous space to the years 1952-1959. This does not mean that the chairmen (later called "directors" and again "chairmen," as terminology changed) and their work after 1959 are less important. However, before 1959 the voluntary elected workers (who did much of their own planning and promotion)

reported to the Annual Session and were allowed space in the *Guide Book* to present work which had been done and to present plans for the coming year. After a change in By-laws and the employment of a state WMS Director in 1959, the various missionary fundamental chairmen were elected by the Executive Board, worked under the supervision of the WMS Director, with their reports becoming a part of her report.

Mission Study

Mrs. R. K. Redwine, already chairman of mission study in 1952, urged the women to think of mission study not as something leaders had thought up but rather as a fundamental founded in the heart and purpose of God. In her report of 1952-53 she promoted the new concept of mission study as set forth in the Achievement Chart.

This new concept of a program of work (the Achievement Chart) related only to mission Study. The plan was created in order that the whole organization of Woman's Missionary Union — women and young people — might be united in a great cooperative plan for better mission study. Mrs. William McMurry, then director of Missionary Fundamentals, Southern Baptist WMU, was the leader in working out and promoting through the various states the Achievement Chart as the means of lifting to high levels what had been known as mission study. Although "point eight" on the WMS standard of excellence (at least two mission study books taught in class periods totaling not less than three hours for each book, two-thirds of the enrolment of the society reading a missionary book) was challenging, the new plan was considered much better. Mrs. McMurry, a dynamic speaker and a great Christian with a keen insight into the hurts of the world, inspired WMU members to try this new plan. While in North Carolina she said, "The study of missions is a privilege, a duty, a responsibility; it is an adventure, an intellectual prod, a soul awakener. Missionary literature brings the world to your heart and takes your heart into the world."

Thus, the recommendation "that we adopt the Achievement Chart as the goal for the mission study program — as a means of lifting our efforts into higher levels of endeavors" was passed by women attending the North Carolina Annual Session in 1953.

The Achievement Chart contained seven categories of effort. For local societies attaining 350 or more points, recognition was made by the presentation of a certificate to each society.

The societies were willing to try this new program of work but it required a great deal of explanation and the leaders in the local societies needed help. Introduced in the 1953 overnight leadership institutes in August and September, it was received enthusiastically by many leaders. Institutes became the most effective means of helping teachers realize the potential of a well taught, attractively presented study. Teaching methods and information on varied resource materials became a real boost for attendance and enjoyment of mission study from WMS through Sunbeams.

Whereas the reports accepting the Standard of Excellence as a guide

were based on "classes taught," the Achievement Chart called for a report of the number of books taught.

At the first state departmental institute held at First Church, Greensboro, in 1953 divisional and associational mission study chairmen received intensive training in planning for their own mission study institutes.

The women attending learned that while the Standard of Excellence required at least two books taught during the year with teaching time totaling three hours, credit was given on the Achievement Chart for four different types of classes — lecture, relay, extensive study, and intensive study, with three hours as the minimum time for study. Many societies put a great deal of energy into promoting different types of classes. They discovered that although the Achievement Chart required discipline, it would indeed work! Some of the most beautiful banquets were in local churches with decorations and even food in keeping with the country to be studied. This created an atmosphere of exciting interest — sometimes awe. One church with more than 100 members present for a study on Brazil even presented the teacher with a beautiful corsage made from Brazil nuts.

The promotion of the Achievement Chart continued through state departmental institutes and by the end of 1953, two hundred WMUs were using the chart as the program of work for mission study, finding it most helpful and stimulating. Also, the report for that year showed 8,619 books taught as compared with 7,961 classes held the previous year. Most of these studies lasted three hours. In addition, there were 2,000 more participants in the study than the year before.

The Achievement Chart generated renewed interest and excitement in mission study to the degree that the work of the chairman increased significantly. Mrs. R. K. Redwine said, as she relinquished the chairmanship, "It is my conviction that we should look forward to the day when we can have a fulltime director of this rapidly enlarging department of work."

As Mrs. Maddy gave her report at the Annual Session in 1955, she displayed the emphasis and challenge of the year, "Every Reader Win a Reader." The women responded in an amazing number of books read.

Mrs. Charles A. Maddy, wife of the pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Durham, who was elected to succeed Mrs. Redwine at the Annual Session in Greensboro in 1954, soon realized the significance of this conviction. State leadership institutes and conferences, state divisional and associational mission study institutes, plus constant promotion of *reading* mission study books, demanded preparation and time from home.

Because the work was new and interest high, she spent time and energy in many local churches. Correspondence was massive. Chairmen from the local through divisional levels needed information and explanation and they asked for it. The women were eager to learn how to make the Achievement Chart a program of work and they were eager likewise to respond to every suggestion. After three years, because it seemed impossible to continue to give the amount of time required to do the work well,

Mrs. Maddry resigned. However, she considers these years among the most thrilling, stimulating, challenging, and rewarding three years of her Christian experience.

Mrs. John Knight, a pastor's wife, well qualified and experienced in WMU work, was elected to succeed Mrs. Maddry, but she found it necessary to resign after a short period of service. Mrs. R. P. Stroup, Spruce Pine, succeeded Mrs. Knight. She was keenly interested in the promotion of the total Mission Study Program of work and directed the work in a most acceptable manner until the end of the year. As she gave her report she spoke of herself as the interim chairman. In Annual Session, 1958, Mrs. John Wacaster of Cherryville, well-known and beloved past field representative, was elected Missions Study director (title changed in 1956 from "chairman" to "director"). In her first and only published report given at Annual Session (1959-60 was the last year in which chairmen of missionary fundamentals made individual reports), Mrs. Wacaster said: "Mission study could be compared to windows — it lets in the light. Let's open wide the windows of our hearts and let the SON-light in."

Mrs. Wacaster carried this responsibility well until 1961 when Mrs. Hoyle Allred of Albemarle was elected by the Executive Board to succeed her. Following her term of service, Mrs. Oren Bradley of Mt. Airy, wife of Superintendent of Missions, was elected, and served until 1970.

Stewardship

Mrs. J. Ben Eller, pastor's wife from Coats, was already serving as stewardship chairman in 1952, completing her five-year term in 1953. Her dedicated Christian life, her sincerity with which she presented the true meaning of stewardship, her pleasing platform manner, and her ability as a speaker made her a good leader and promoter of the stewardship emphases. She promoted the use of programs for stewardship education, a stewardship class in each organization; a stewardship church night program in each church; an increase in the number of members contributing to each special missions offering (foreign, home and state). She also promoted greater cooperation with the Baptist State Convention in raising the Cooperative Program goal in each church and endeavored to reach the ideals of the state convention in "every Baptist a tither," and "every tither win a tither." Mrs. Eller's formula for reaching this accomplishment was "anticipate, promote, persevere, and pray!"

Mrs. W. K. McGee, Winston-Salem, equally qualified and enthusiastic, succeeded Mrs. Eller as stewardship chairman in 1953. The varied and attractive posters together with a thorough understanding of the value of proportionate sharing of possessions enabled her to help other persons desire to meet world mission needs. She promoted the plan of work through overnight leadership and state institutes and conferences, state and divisional and associational institutes and, as with many other chairmen, answered the call to the local church wherever and whenever it was possible. In challenging the women to be good stewards, she urged them to begin with the tithe. Said she, "the tithe is God's minimum proportion —

giving tangible evidence of his willing partnership with God in the work of his world." She was a strong promoter of giving through the Cooperative Program and gave voice and energy to the stewardship revival plan for October and November of 1954. She urged Woman's Missionary Union to give strong support to the pastors and the churches in planning and carrying through on the stewardship revivals. The following year she also urged Woman's Missionary Union members to use church and denomination night in October and November to help their churches to become aware of the mission opportunities before them. She promoted in every way possible special offerings and equated missionary advance with mission volunteers plus adequate support. Said she, "Let every Woman's Missionary Union use all possible means for developing the missionary spirit among our people for preparing young people to go when God calls them for missionary service and for providing the funds needed for great world mission advance program in this state."

In 1956 Mrs. Knolan Benfield, a dedicated Christian, active in WMU work, wife of the pastor of First Baptist Church, Hickory, was elected as Stewardship director to succeed Mrs. McGee. She continued to promote the Christian partnership as found in the Bible through the Annual Institute and Overnight Leadership Institutes and specifically the Cooperative Program and special offerings. Her help to the local chairman through correspondence and personal contact was significant.

In her last published report, Mrs. Benfield sought to show the relation between one's attitude toward money and life in the living. According to her interpretation, "God doesn't say, 'Give me your money OR your life.' He said, 'Give me your money AND your life.' "

Stewardship directors elected by the Executive Board were: Mrs. W. A. Mitchner, Oxford (1959); Mrs. Harry Wood, Leaksville (1962); and Mrs. C. C. Warren, Charlotte (1967).

Community Missions

In 1952 Mrs. Henry Gamble, Waxhaw, was elected to succeed Mrs. D. H. Craver, Goldsboro, who had laid strong foundations in the promotion of community missions. Because she magnified Christ in her own life, she was well qualified to challenge others to do the same through service to their fellow persons. During the time she served she gave untiring effort to selected emphases for each year, particularly in soul-winning visitation, alcohol education and Christian living in the home, and ministry to other races and nationalities. Through conferences and institutes and on the local situation she communicated well the need for Christians to be more Christ-like in seeking to minister to their communities. "God's promise is sufficient encouragement for all who are engaging in the glorious task of community missions, the purpose of which is winning the unsaved and making the community more Christlike." She urged the women to cooperate with the church plan of receiving *Home Life* magazine into every church home and she, like other missionary fundamentals chairmen, stressed the need for continuous prayer. She persistently promoted the study of *Community*

Missions Guide feeling that this study would lend inspiration and challenge plus joy in creative service.

Mrs. Alton Greenlaw, Warsaw, succeeded Mrs. Gamble in 1953. She came at a time when Woman's Missionary Union felt it necessary to redefine community missions as the "conversion of lost souls to Christ and saved souls to Christian living and service," with specific aims: (1) that the aim for community missions be magnified; (2) that community missions be revitalized by defining its scope (associational boundaries) and by a planned united effort based on surveys which presented facts, not just opinions; (3) that the New Testament be applied as the text for all ministries; (4) that Woman's Missionary Union cooperate with all church agencies in the evangelistic crusade in 1955, and (5) that intercessory prayer leagues be a vital phase of community missions.

Mrs. Henry Stough, Wadesboro, succeeded Mrs. Greenlaw in 1955. She continued to promote the value of "directed" community missions. She urged the community missions committee to search out the needs in the community (through surveys) to determine the most urgent need facing the individual who is at the heart of missionary motives: "To be effective local missionaries we must recognize each person as of priceless value to God and see in each individual a contribution from God to the world."

Mrs. Stough faithfully promoted the state's special emphases; among them, the Christian's use of the ballot and the distribution of Bibles and religious literature. Leaflets helpful in these fields were available upon request from the state WMU office.

Perhaps Mrs. Stough will be remembered for her many appeals for special ministry to international students. She reported that 31,000 were studying in the United States in 1952. "They are not only going to learn facts and theories but maybe more important our way of living. What kind of impressions are we going to give them of our Christianity — these young leaders of the world of tomorrow?" At the June meeting of the WMU Executive Committee (1955) Mrs. Stough asked that a special chairman be appointed to work with the community missions chairman and in cooperation with the Baptist Student Union representative in promoting work with the international students. Mrs. M. E. Wilson was appointed as this special chairman. Together they did a strong, cooperative work. Already serving as state Margaret Fund chairman, Mrs. Wilson possessed the interest and qualifications for this chairmanship.

In her last report Mrs. Stough emphasized the importance of "Planned Community Missions," especially planned soul-winning visitation, and challenged every organization to participate. Community Missions directors elected by the Executive Board were Mrs. Robert Costner (1959); and Mrs. J. F. Gilreath, Charlotte (1964). Her title was changed to Mission Action Director in 1968 in which capacity she served one year.

Prayer

Although the organization of Woman's Missionary Union did not provide for a prayer chairman until 1955, the belief in and promotion of prayer

as the undergirding force for every facet of the organization's work was inherent from its very inception. Already in North Carolina much emphasis had been placed on prayer — individual and united. Particular importance was given to the establishment and maintenance of family worship and the constant use of the calendar of prayer which appeared in *Royal Service* magazine. Local societies were urged to pray for the unsaved wherever they were and to pray for workers to be sent into the "harvest fields." Every society was challenged to observe special seasons of prayer preceding the special offerings for foreign, home, state missions and the Heck-Jones offering (Memorial Offering for WMU promotion).

Mrs. Foy Farmer became North Carolina's first prayer chairman, elected in March, 1955. Surely she was the right person. A strong believer in prayer, author of mission study books, and past state WMU president, her zeal to help others to become more conscious of their need for prayer and the power of prayer admirably fitted her for the task. Through her conferences she inspired the formation of intercessory leagues.

Mrs. Farmer urged that emphasis be placed on the fact that the prayer chairman in the local associational or divisional level **MUST** be a pray-er. Through suggesting books on prayer, encouraging prayer with individuals, suggesting ways for allowing more time in general meetings and during the observance of weeks of prayer, Mrs. Farmer was instrumental in deepening the prayer life of many, especially shut-ins who were invited to serve through intercessory prayer leagues.

However, Mrs. Farmer encountered some problems as she began her promotion, as indicated by her article in the *Biblical Recorder* (July 30, 1955):

There has been considerable comment about the new plan recommending that a prayer chairman be elected in each local society. Some feel that this is intruding upon an area of life too sacred to be explored. Others are wondering how and what this prayer chairman shall report . . .

Really it is too bad that this most important avenue of service has been neglected to the extent that it seems wise to elect a person who will encourage its use. It is too bad that so few societies have an intercessory prayer league. It is too bad that so few homes have family altars. It is too bad that so few members of the WMS practice intercessory prayer and follow faithfully the calendar of prayer. It is tragic that so much time is given to speaking — both at the regular meetings and at the so called "seasons of prayer" and so little time given to praying.

Elected to succeed Mrs. Farmer at Annual Session 1958 was Mrs. E. N. Gardner of Laurinburg. Known and loved as a former missionary, with a love for missions and a great believer in the power of prayer, she began to build strong upon the foundation already laid.

Prayer directors elected by the Executive Board were: Mrs. Gilmer Cross, pastor's wife, First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, 1963-66 and Mrs. W. K. McGee, Winston-Salem, 1966-1969.

Department of Missionary Fundamentals

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina pioneered as a state in introducing the Department of Missionary Fundamentals into its plan of work. Woman's Missionary Union, SBC had not included any directives in her plan of work to support the By-laws calling for a department of Missionary Fundamentals (WMU Annual Meeting, St. Louis, 1954) when Mrs. David Bobbit was elected director of the Department of Missionary Fundamentals in North Carolina. She had only as her guide the statement in *Royal Service*: "The New Department of Missionary Fundamentals embraces the four phases — prayer, study, stewardship, and community missions." However, her scope of understanding urged her to immediate action. In addition to her responsibility to "supervise" the already existing state chairmen of the four phases, North Carolina *Guide Book* for 1955 carried her statement: "The department of missionary fundamentals shall be supervised by a director in the region, association and local society, the director encouraging the chairman of each division of the work and giving her needed assistance at all times."

Although this plan seemed to work well, the office of "Director of Missionary Fundamentals" was omitted in 1957, since there was a feeling that the chairmen of prayer, mission study, stewardship, and community missions needed to work more closely with the WMU president.

Also, because of the By-laws change in 1958-59 making WMS a department of promotion for the program of WMU and the employment of a WMS Director, "Missionary Fundamentals" underwent a change. The new plan called for the Department of WMS to have a chairman for promotion of mission study, prayer, stewardship, and community missions elected annually by the Executive Board upon nomination of the Personnel Committee.

These chairmen worked under the supervision of the WMS director as to plan, the place, and the time of their work on the field. However, in 1968, their titles were changed again to "directors." This plan was followed until 1970.

Field Work

Mrs. John Wacaster was elected as WMU field worker in 1945, having already served as superintendent of the King's Mountain Association and for the year prior to her election served as WMU superintendent of the Hickory Region. Vivacious and alert, dedicated, a "bearer of WMU literature," hard-worker, friend, Mrs. Wacaster probably visited in more nooks and corners and spent more nights in out-of-the-way places than any citizen of North Carolina. To these places she carried her enthusiasm for missions, her wit, and most important, her concern for people. She was truly a field representative of Woman's Missionary Union.

All who have known Mrs. Wacaster personally will agree that no better tribute could be written than that which appeared at the time of her

resignation on Woman's Missionary Union Page, *Biblical Recorder*, December 21, 1957:

She is a careful artist who never lets the message be lost in the technique; but she is a master of a great variety of media.

The duties of the position of field representative have been rather loosely prescribed. Mrs. Wacaster's record indicates that she has interpreted them as being: to see a weakness and strengthen it; to find a new, workable idea and share it; to know the needs of the world for Christ and enlist others in helping to meet them. This she has done . . . lovingly, sacrificially, patiently, gladly, successfully . . . Her happiness is in helping.

WMU honored Mrs. Wacaster in 1972 Convention by again recognizing her strong and lasting contribution to North Carolina WMU. She was presented a plaque by the Executive Secretary, Sara Ann Hobbs, in recognition of her 13 years of service as field representative and 3 years as Mission Study Chairman and in commemoration of 51 years of attendance at the State WMU Annual Session.

A Noble Theme

The theme, "To Every People, Tongue, and Nation," of the Annual Session, meeting in Winston-Salem, 1956, resounded the purpose of Woman's Missionary Union and the challenging needs of the world. At this session, Mrs. Gordon Maddrey chose as the subject of her president's address, "The Glory of the Impossible." Excerpts from her inspiring and challenging, last presidential message follow:

These past five years: 1951-1956, have been rugged at times, but never dull; they have been years of transition and change but inexpressibly glorious to have a part in. Our prayer and hope is that it may have been a period of preparation for a future in which North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union will fulfill more adequately its purpose of providing missionary vision and stimulating missionary giving to the support of the mission program of our denomination.

This is no time to be small and miss majesty. Littleness will prevail, however, if our vision is little.

A Noble Person for a Noble Task

The committee seeking to find an executive secretary to succeed Miss Provence agreed that the qualities most needed in her were ideas, originality, and creativity, in addition to administrative ability. The committee felt divinely guided to Miriam Robinson, professor, Carver school of Missions, Louisville, Kentucky and she was elected by the Executive Committee of Woman's Missionary Union at its February meeting and presented at the 1955 — Annual Session meeting in Asheville. Dignified, poised, dedicated, with a contagious Christian spirit, she served faithfully, efficiently, and effectively for thirteen years.



Miriam J. Robinson, executive secretary 1955-1968

Now, a dedicated staff, professional and volunteer, sought earnestly to bring all their "energies, talents, possessions and wills into service for our King."

Chapter II

Into the Best Service of the Best King

“Serve Christ Your Lord and Master,” *Col. 3:24b (Moffatt)*

SURELY God directed Mrs. Sallie Bailey Jones to choose as a motto for North Carolina’s Central Committee on Missions (forerunner of Woman’s Missionary Union) what was voted to be for North Carolina Woman’s Missionary Union the permanent watchword: “For ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Col. 3:24b). Dedicated women have been challenged to give of their best in service that the purpose for which the Union exists might be fulfilled. (WMU of North Carolina has not used this motto since publication of the *Guide Book* was discontinued.)

On a visit to North Carolina Woman’s Missionary Union the late Mrs. William McMurry, then director of Missionary Fundamentals of Woman’s Missionary Union, SBC, said,

Woman’s Missionary Union is in big business. The cause of missions is her magnificent obsession and missions is the heart of the Bible, the purpose of the Christian, the reason for the missionaries, the glory of Christendom.

To keep this “big business” a functioning service in North Carolina thousands upon thousands of women have given of their best service to the best King that his name might be proclaimed and loved in the local churches and associations, in home mission areas and foreign mission outreach.

A New Era of Service (1956-1961)

A New President

Mrs. W. K. McGee was elected as president of Woman’s Missionary Union in 1956 to succeed Mrs. Gordon Maddrey.

Elected to serve with Mrs. McGee were: First Vice President, Mrs. A. L.



Mrs. W. K. McGee, president 1956-1961

Parker, Greensboro; Second Vice-President, Hilda Mayo, Rocky Mount; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Stafford Webb, Greensboro; Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. E. Gwin, Durham; Assistant Recording Secretary, Mrs. Marse Grant, Thomasville; Director Missionary Fundamentals, Mrs. David Bobbitt, Charlotte; Community Missions Chairman, Mrs. H. W. Stough, Wadesboro; Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. Charles A. Maddry, Durham; Stewardship Chairman, Mrs. Knolan Benfield, Hickory; Prayer Chairman, Mrs. Foy J. Farmer, Raleigh; Trustee Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Mrs. F. O. Mixon, Murfreesboro; Margaret Fund Chairman, Mrs. M. E. Wilson, Greensboro.

During the years of her presidency, the personality of Mrs. McGee will endure even beyond what she was able to accomplish through her leadership as dedicated and genuine as it was. Already known and loved as state stewardship chairman, her sincere, humble approach to life made her acceptable to individuals who loved and appreciated her as they felt her concern for them. Through her own dedicated leadership she emphasized the need for faithful execution of the plan of work through prayer and dedication. With a minimum of overlapping, this chapter deals with the period in which Mrs. McGee led North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union in service for the best King!

Continued Emphasis on Enlistment

In her enthusiastic challenging manner Mrs. A. L. Parker, first vice president, continued to promote the goals and emphases of the state plan of work:

We believe in order to carry out His commission most effectively we must have missionary organizations in all of the churches (3,191). Also, our Woman's Missionary Union membership of 117,267 should accept this as their challenge. If missionaries are to be sent out they must come out of our churches and homes.

Mrs. Parker continued to set goals and to encourage the associations to work to meet those goals. Since Young Woman's Auxiliary was approaching its 50th year celebration she gave major emphasis during her first year to organizing new Young Woman's Auxiliaries and to enlisting new members and strengthening those organizations which already existed.

The Aims for Advancement

Because so few societies and young people's organizations attained A-1 standard on the Standard of Excellence, a committee was appointed by Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Alabama to make a long-range study of a more realistic guide. This study led to the adoption of the Aims for Advancement which provided basic and elective objectives for all organizations above Sunbeam Band. Major emphasis was placed on spiritual development through use of this more flexible plan to fit varying situations. North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union accepted with enthusiasm this new plan and considered it a challenging basis for an ever enlarging program of missionary service. Thus, the plan of work included in the *Guide Book*, 1956-1957, listed the Aims for Advancement as the guide to well-rounded work with emphasis on spiritual development and with the goal of increasing the number of approved, advanced, and honor organizations in North Carolina. "Honor" recognition was awarded from Birmingham upon receipt of statement of qualifications.

With Sunbeam Bands there were two steps of gradation: Approved and Honor. Aims were directed toward Band leadership and based on units of study and activity as found in Sunbeam Activities.

Regional WMU Conference

Because of the large attendance at the overnight leadership institutes and the fact that so many who wanted to attend were turned away, the Executive Committee decided at its December meeting, 1956, to combine what had formerly been called "overnight leadership institutes" with the regional meeting. This plan was followed also in 1957. The state WMU personnel led conferences on methods followed by periods when the entire group was brought together to hear missionaries: Edith Vaughn of Brazil and Inabelle Coleman of Taiwan. This initial effort in ten regional WMU conferences brought together 5,200 workers!

Again, in the fall of 1958 the state WMU in cooperation with regional

executive committees promoted regional WMU conferences. After two years of regional conferences the ten regional WMU meetings reverted to the "inspirational type" meeting.

A Year of Service to Remember — (1957)

The year 1957 was the year of anniversaries, changes and new plans and/or promotion:

Woman's Missionary Union observed the 50th anniversary of *Royal Service*, the Carver School of Missions, and Young Woman's Auxiliary. WMU of North Carolina, aware of these anniversaries, made her own plans and set goals for recognition. One Goal was 100 percent of the local members subscribing to *Royal Service*. This goal was not attained, but 65 Missionary Societies were inspired to reach this goal.

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union made changes in line with those suggested by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC: the office of youth director was omitted in favor of age level directors, one for YWA, one for GA, and one for Sunbeam Band, each of these to be a member of the executive committee.

The Office of Business Women's Circles advisor in the local church was omitted in favor of having the chairman of each circle serve as a member of the executive committee.

Encouragement was given for organizing morning, afternoon, and evening circles in order to include or enlist all Baptist women.

The extension circle came into being, a circle for women unable to attend the general WMS meeting.

The plans for promotion in Woman's Missionary Union organizations membership were changed to fall in line with the time limit set by the church for Sunday School and Training Union.

Enlistment with all kinds of suggestions for personal contact, telephones, and letters was strongly emphasized.

North Carolina WMU looked with favor upon the organization of night circles in addition to Baptist Women's Circles, and the BWC members were encouraged to attend the night general meetings in addition to their own circles.

Another change was made when "Queens in Service" replaced "Honor Queen," and "Queen Regent in Service" was added.

For the first time Home and Foreign Mission Weeks of Prayer programs appeared in *Royal Service*.

The Executive Committee of North Carolina WMU decided in its January meeting to omit the names of delegates to the State WMU Annual Session from the WMU Minutes.

A special Community Missions Day of Prayer and Visitation was promoted by Mrs. Henry W. Stough, State Community Missions Chairman. Emphasis was placed on prayer and visitation — not on program — though a brief plan for a program was suggested. The time for this special day was set by each local organization — perhaps combined with evangelistic efforts before or following the church revival. The day, it was suggested,

should be planned by the Community Missions Chairman, Prayer Chairman, and Enlistment Chairman in consultation with the pastor. Visits were to be made to the unchurched, the lost, unenlisted families, and to residents of institutions.

A Together Dream

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina and the Baptist State Convention Brotherhood Department had a dream of working together in the great program of world missions. The first step toward the fulfillment of this dream came through World Missions Week, a jointly sponsored venture at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly (Caswell), July 1-6, 1957. This "first" brought 450 individuals who spent the week. In addition, 100 visitors came from driving distances just for the day to attend various conferences. This venture was in support of southwide efforts in a new era in missions advance and in anticipated celebration of World Missions Year in 1964, the 150th Anniversary of the Triennial Convention, the earliest Baptist Convention in the United States.

The world mission scope of Christian witness was the predominant theme emphasized by each speaker, a theme which typified the real spirit of missions. The week's program closed with a decision service and a family dedication service, having real meaning for those who participated and observed.

The July 20, 1957 *Biblical Recorder* carried the reaction of many who attended. Mrs. Luther Copeland, former missionary to Japan, said, "For sometime I have felt that our churches should do more to strengthen family life, and I think World Missions Week has made a wonderful contribution in that direction. . . . Through the experiences of this week, I have come to a deep conviction that the Christian home as well as the individual has a responsibility for world evangelism."

The Grady Fullers of Elkin wrote:

We had not been to an assembly to stay the whole week since we were married. We thought we couldn't because of our four little ones. But our state WMU and Brotherhood arranged that for us and we were able to come. Needless to say, we were overjoyed. We could never say what this family week of world missions has meant to us. Our children had never heard so many of our missionaries at one time.

Hubert S. Mumford, Yates Association, who brought his family said, "It was amazing to me that a program of such high quality could be achieved in this initial experimental year."

Miriam Robinson, North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, said, "It is my feeling that this type of program will contribute more to the promotion of missions throughout the churches than conferences for women alone could ever expect to."

The attendance in 1958 at World Missions week at Caswell was good in spirit but poor in attendance with only 400 present. However, the following year the attendance began to climb. In 1960 there were 1,100 adults, YWA's, GA's, RA's and Sunbeams, and in 1962 there were 1,200.

In 1963, World Missions Conference sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and the Division of Missions of the Baptist State Convention realized an attendance of approximately 1,000 persons. In 1964, World Missions Week at North Carolina Baptist Assembly brought only 700 in attendance. However, this same summer more emphasis was placed on the attendance of the Ridgecrest WMU conference and as a result 600 persons from North Carolina attended Ridgecrest. In 1965, World Missions Week was cancelled because of the Baptist World Congress meeting in Miami. Attendance at this congress was promoted strongly among the women of North Carolina, and as a result two chartered buses took 73 women to this Baptist World Congress, June 25-30, 1965. Again in 1966, World Missions Week at Caswell co-sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood with 870 men, women and children attending.

And . . . World Missions Week at Caswell continues!

Service Through New Headquarters

As the organization of Woman's Missionary Union had grown in purpose, personnel and efficiency, its headquarters had of necessity expanded.

From a rented office space to the newly completed *Biblical Recorder* Building in 1912, Woman's Missionary Union moved in 1947 to the entire second floor of the Convention headquarters building at 119 Hillsboro (now Hillsborough) Street. In April, 1957 another move was made to Baptist Building, 301 Hillsborough Street, which was planned and built under the direction of Dr. M. A. Huggins, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. A lovely glassed-in display of curios from nations around the world announces Woman's Missionary Union headquarters to all persons approaching second floor of the Baptist Building by the front elevator or stairway. These curios continue to grow as state personnel visit mission fields and as missionaries continue their gracious sharing of items from faraway places.

Service Through WMU Training School

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has always felt strong ties to the WMU Training School, located in Louisville, Kentucky. It should be remembered that it was "the child" of Miss Heck, and all who attended this school have come away with the image of Miss Heck's portrait which hung in the chapel and a feeling of special mission generated by it. North Carolina also had a special interest in the school because of what it meant to so many young women who attended the school and came back to the state as pastors' wives, WMU executive secretaries, youth leaders, and others, in addition to missionaries, foreign and home.

In 1943, support of the Training School became a preferred item in the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering. Later the amount for support and a specified amount for loans for scholarships to assist students who were worthy and met the requirements of the Executive Committee came first in the allocations of the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering (1947). In addition,

through the same offering, North Carolina WMU sent an offering of \$150 for the school's Easter dinner. These allocations grew from \$2,000 for current support, \$1,000 for Loan Scholarships in 1952 to \$6,000 for current support and \$1,200 for loan scholarships in 1956, the last year Carver School of Missions and Social Work was under management and support of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

WMU organizations were also urged to send foodstuffs which would lessen the expenditure necessary for food. This additional manner of support was encouraged as late as 1956: "potatoes, fruit, ham and other meats, nuts, home-canned fruit, and vegetables, home made jellies and preserves, cake and cookies, etc."

Through the years WMU of North Carolina kept before Baptist through the *Biblical Recorder* the names of students from the state attending the school and local societies and churches were urged to pray for them.

The name of the school was changed in 1953 from "Woman's Missionary Union Training School" to the "Carver School of Missions and Social Work" in honor of Dr. William Owen Carver, teacher of Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and WMU Training School for many years. However, the purpose of the school did not change. With the change Carver School offered a two-year course of study leading to a degree of Bachelor of Religious Education or Master of Religious Education, with an additional year of specialized study earning a Master of Science degree. Dormitory space remained open only to women, though young men were also invited to enroll in classes.

The change called for increased faculty, expanded curriculum, and a building program which was begun in 1952. At the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago, May, 1957, the school was transferred to the control of the Southern Baptist Convention receiving its support from the Cooperative Program. Thus the annual allocation from the Heck-Jones offering was discontinued.

During this interim (1952-1957) the courses had been built to meet the needs of men and women who were interested in service overseas; work in Good Will Centers; service in areas of child and family welfare; positions through the Home Mission Board; and leadership roles in local churches and in Woman's Missionary Union.

Golden Anniversary

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina participated in 1957 in the "Fifty Years of Golden Service" celebration of Carver School. The Carver School Golden Anniversary luncheon took place in Charlotte during the Annual Session. This was an inspiration and a beginning for the series of associational or city alumni meetings planned over the state. Mrs. A. T. Greene, Jr., president of the North Carolina Alumnae Association at that time was in charge. During these fifty years 4,000 students had studied at Carver School and were serving in 43 states and 33 countries. Approximately 300 Carver School Alumnae were living and serving in North Carolina, the largest number any state could claim.

A special anniversary program was planned for the Annual Session, conducted by Mrs. F. O. Mixon, North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union's trustee of that institution, Mrs. A. T. Greene, Jr., and Dr. Emily Lansdell, president of the Carver School.

With dissolution of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, the position of Carver School representative was eliminated. In July, 1963, Carver School of Missions and Social Work was merged with the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This merger also necessitated a change in administering two scholarship funds which WMU had been administering to aid North Carolina women honor students. The minutes of the Executive Board, show these changes:

The Baptist Foundation, which handles the Edna R. Harris Scholarship Fund was authorized to pay annually to the Student Aid Fund of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., the interest on the \$10,000 fund, beginning 1963. Two interest payments totalling \$362.91 were made to Southeastern Seminary in July, 1963, and January 1, 1964.

At the request of the donor, Mrs. Joel G. Layton of Lillington, authorization of the board, and advice of a lawyer, the \$6,000 principal of the Castleberry Memorial Gift Scholarship Fund was refunded to her. Interest from this fund, the principal of which had varied through the years, had been used since 1916 to help provide an annual honor scholarship for a second year North Carolina woman honor student at Carver School.

Another Year To Remember (1958)

Tragedy

Mary Littleton, office secretary, after only thirteen months of service, was killed in an automobile accident on Saturday, July 26, 1958, at Pittsboro. She was the daughter of missionaries, the H. R. Littletons of Ghana. She herself had expressed the desire to return later to Ghana and serve with her parents. Miss Littleton had succeeded Vivian Nowell, North Carolina's missionary to Nigeria, who had worked for two years in the WMU office before returning to resume her services in Nigeria.

Change

In March, 1958, the Executive Council decided that the Council meeting usually held in June would henceforth be known as a promotional meeting with certain aspects of the work receiving emphasis.

Achievement

The February 8, 1958 *Biblical Recorder* WMU page reported that 34 WMU's in the state merited recognition for completing 350 or more points on the Mission Study Achievement Chart. This number was twice as many as received this honor in 1957.

The Executive Board

Prior to 1958 business affairs of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina were transacted by the Executive Committee composed of twelve elected committee members, the officers of WMU, and the chairmen of special committees or divisions of work. This committee met monthly and was joined quarterly (or annually) by the executive council, composed of the WMU superintendents and one youth leader of each region, and the WMU superintendent and one youth leader from each association for a promotion-planning meeting.

The first Executive Board, the successor to the Executive Council, the outgrowth of the "superintendent conference" had its birth in March, 1958, during Annual Session meeting in New Bern.

The first quarterly meeting of the Executive Board was held on April 3, 1958 in the Baptist Building, Raleigh, with Mrs. W. K. McGee presiding.

The greatly revised constitution adopted in 1958, resulted in a name change from "Constitution" to "By-Laws." These By-Laws stated:

There shall be an Executive Board composed of officers, chairmen of mission study, prayer, community missions, stewardship, the Margaret Fund chairman, the chairman of the State Federation of Baptist Business Women, WMU representatives for Carver School, Southwestern, New Orleans and Southeastern seminaries and twelve members-at-large, three of whom shall be from the Raleigh region and one from each of the other regions. The president shall be chairman. The professional leadership shall serve without vote.

Other stipulations were that the Board should have authority over the affairs of Woman's Missionary Union in the interim between sessions; authority to elect an executive secretary who would be responsible to the Executive Board for the administration and execution of the established plans, policies etc. of the Board.

In addition, the Board was authorized to elect other professional leadership authorized by the Board and to hold quarterly meetings and schedule extra meetings at the call of the president or upon the request of five of its members, with twelve voting members present constituting a quorum. Further, the Executive Committee of the Board should be composed of the president as chairman and five other members elected by the Executive Board. The By-laws adopted at the same session read:

The Executive Board shall have the following committees which shall be appointed at the first meeting following the Annual Session: finance, personnel, policy, WMS, YWA, GA, Sunbeam Band, and such other committees as the work demands, chairmen shall be named by the president.

Thus, the Nominating Committee (formerly composed of the Regional superintendents and three members-at-large presenting names of officers and non-salaried leadership to the annual session) now presents only the officers for a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a

recording secretary and an assistant recording secretary. Other personnel is elected by the Executive Committee.

The newly adopted By-laws created three new positions: GA Director, YWA Director, and WMS Director.

Change was made in departments for promotion of the Program of Woman's Missionary Union from two (department of youth and department of missionary fundamentals) to four: WMS, YWA, GA, and SB. These four age-group departments made up the new "Promotion Division" of Woman's Missionary Union. The education service for these departments came through *Royal Service* for WMS, *The Window of Y.W.A.* for young women, *Tell* for girls, and *Sunbeam Activities* for Sunbeam Band leaders.

The work of each department was to be developed through a program of mission study, prayer, community missions, and stewardship under the direction of the Executive Board and the supervision of the executive secretary.

Each department was to be composed of the president, the executive secretary, director of the department elected by the Executive Board upon nominating of the personnel committee, and a committee of the Executive Board.

With the formation of the Executive Board new WMU By-laws were adopted, as well as By-laws for the Executive Board.

State WMS Director in Service

Kathryn Bullard of Kannapolis became the first state WMS director of North Carolina in September, 1959. The office was created at the WMU Annual Session in 1958. A native of Gibson, Scotland County, North Carolina, Miss Bullard had worked with the First Baptist Church of Kannapolis since 1949, first as office secretary, then as educational director, and later as promotional director. Her valuable contribution to the total program of this church in missionary education and activity prepared her for consideration for this position. Her friendliness and efficiency characterized her association with women over the state and the high quality of work she led them to perform.

In Service Through the Biblical Recorder

Since the very early days of Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina the *Biblical Recorder* has given support to its work.

As far back as 1891 the *Biblical Recorder* carried the announcement of the first year of North Carolina Union's meeting with Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. The report of the Union (Central Committee of North Carolina) was first a column, then "The Woman's Page," then a page, "Woman's Missionary Union."

At the Annual Session meeting in Durham, 1959, Miriam Robinson, executive secretary, reported, "Woman's Missionary Union pays \$100 a week for the WMU page in the *Biblical Recorder*. The investment of \$5,200

a year for publicity space demands that the material for it be carefully prepared and is reason for urging that it be read.”

The plan of one page was carried through 1960. However, at the suggestion of the editor, the page was discontinued on January 1, 1961.

Voluntary Service Through Regions

During the early years of Miss Heck's leadership, the state was divided into five districts for the purpose of promoting the growth of local missionary societies over the state. These districts were called "Institute Divisions," and the leaders were called "vice-presidents." These vice-presidents majored on Mission Study and Methods which resulted in an enlarged membership and a very fine quality of work. As a result, the need was felt for an increased number of districts. In 1939, at the Annual Session, a motion was passed to follow the plan of the Baptist State Convention by dividing the 80 associations into ten divisions:

Asheville	Hickory
Bryson City	Raleigh
Charlotte	Rocky Mount
Elizabeth City	Wilkesboro
Greensboro	Wilmington

The name "district" was later changed to "division," and "vice-president" to "superintendent." The annual meetings were highly inspirational and well attended, very much akin to state meetings. The officers served as liaisons between the association and state officers, and they provided valuable help to officers of the associations.

About 1955 the name was changed from "Division" to "Region," and in 1959 "regional superintendent" became "regional president." The regions were strong promoters of the entire span of WMU work. Officers were elected to correspond with each state officer, creating a host of dedicated individuals performing voluntarily a voluminous amount of intensified promotion of the plan, purpose, and methods of Woman's Missionary Union!

Each division superintendent or president gave an annual report for many years at the Annual Session, and their individual reports were included in the WMU Minute Book, the last of these reports appearing in 1959. Decision was made at this time to eliminate divisional organizations and to bring the associational officers in a more direct relationship with the state officers.

Service Through Special Allocations, 1959

At the Executive Board meeting, January, 1959 the following allocations were made from the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering:

- \$1900 for a Home Economics Cottage at Baptist Women's Training College, Abeokuta, Nigeria
- \$2,116 for a reading room and recreation hall for lepers at Obgomosho, Nigeria

\$1,500 for library and science equipment for Baptist Industrial Institute, Correnta, North Brazil

\$2,500 for furnishings for a home in Wake Forest to be used for furloughing missionaries while studying at Southeastern Seminary.

In January, 1959 the Executive Board allocated the sum of \$10,000 from the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering for the construction of the Student Center adjoining Grace Baptist Church in Taipei, Taiwan. Bids from contractors were opened the day of Miss Inabelle Coleman's funeral (October 18, 1959). The building was dedicated August 7, 1960.

When the Communists took over China, Miss Coleman, a North Carolina Missionary, serving at the University of Shanghai in mainland China, was forced with national leaders and Christians to Taiwan. The University began its teaching again and opened doors in a new location in Taipei. The missionaries and Christians constituted and, with help from the Foreign Mission Board, built Grace Baptist Church close by the University campus. When home on furlough, Miss Coleman gave of herself untiringly in speaking to local, associational and state meetings.

Another allocation was in the sum of \$2,000 to be applied on the cost of an airplane for the use of Jerry Potter, North Carolina's missionary to the deaf. From the very beginning of this work, Woman's Missionary Union lent encouragement, prayer support, and at times financial aid to this unique and greatly needed work.

The Missionary Library Fund, already an annual allocation, was increased to include one book and two magazines as gifts to North Carolina missionaries serving overseas.

Federation of Baptist Business Women in Service

On March 15, 1950, at a state-wide banquet for Baptist Business Women's Circles held at Meredith College, the State Federation of Baptist Business Women was organized. The officers were: Chairman, Mrs. Virginia Simmons, Charlotte; Vice-chairmen, Mrs. Hugh Page, Greensboro; and Miss Elvira Tyson, Farmville; Secretary Mrs. Clara Courts, Winston-Salem. Mrs. R. B. Wilkins of Durham, Second Vice-president of the WMU of North Carolina was chosen as representative from the Executive Committee to work as advisor for the Federation. The state departmental chairmen served as respective chairmen of the Federation. At the 1952 annual session it was voted that the Federation chairman be a member of the State WMU Executive Committee.

At the time of its organization, the Federation was composed of city, associational or divisional Federations. By 1955 there were approximately 3,000 business women in 17 federations holding 50 meetings a year featuring workshops, study classes, mission programs and missionary speakers. These meetings proved to be a great source of help and inspiration to the working women of the state who were unable to attend regular WMU meetings. Interest grew rapidly and the federation set as its goal that of enlisting more women for the cause of missions. Ruth Provence, executive

secretary, served as a gentle, constant guide and inspiration to the officers in particular and to the entire Federation in general.

Of the weekend conferences at Fruitland and Caswell, Mrs. Bryan Hurd, State Federation Chairman, wrote:

We beheld the world and its needs through the eyes of our missionary guests, and our state and its needs through the eyes of our state leaders and resolved within our own hearts to proclaim throughout the entire land that 'God's Business is the Biggest Business' and that we must be busy about our Father's business.

Forty Baptist Business Women enlarged their vision of missions through a tour which led to mission points in Florida and Cuba in 1956.

Period of Transition

At the WMU Convention in Chicago in 1957 in May, the renewed emphasis given to the enlistment of all Baptist women in the program of Woman's Missionary Union, brought about a change in the established procedures of Business Woman's Circles. There were many reasons why Woman's Missionary Union, SBC felt that these circles needed no longer to be sponsored separately, rather that they needed more to become a part of the total missionary program, attending the general meetings just as members of any other circle. They had much to give through the local church and the association. This put the responsibility upon the local WMU organization to plan the general meetings at the time when the greater number of members could attend.

Many Business Women's Circles enrolled as many homemakers as business women, sometimes because it was more convenient to attend at night. In a few instances the Business Women's Circle had become a completely separate missionary society. In a few instances the Business Women's Circles had ceased to follow the missionary plan of work set forth for them and had simply become business women's clubs. No special material was provided by Southern Baptist WMU after separate sponsorship ceased.

However, North Carolina had superb leadership in her State Federation of Baptist Business Women. The officers worked in complete harmony with and under the guidance of the State WMU personnel. They were missionary-oriented, hard-working, dedicated leaders. Their inspiration was felt through the annual dinners preceding the opening of the Annual Session of Women's Missionary Union and in conferences.

Although no special material was provided for Business Women's Circles in the local church, North Carolina continued the promotion of associational federations because associational activities had not yet been planned at a time when business women could attend. The superintendents of missions were asked to include the federation chairman as a member of their executive committee and to meet when she could attend.

In October, 1957, the State Federation of Baptist Business Women held its first state-wide weekend conference in the First Baptist Church, High Point with an attendance of 137 members. Callie Bryant, chairman, and Hilda Mayo, advisor, were responsible for planning this conference. The

state WMU officers and missionary fundamental chairmen participated in the conference. In addition, two missionaries and three international students brought messages. This proved to be such an enlightening experience that plans were made to have such a weekend conference each year.

However, the following year, when the Baptist Business Women's Federation met for such a conference in the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, where plans had been made to care for 300 members, only 74 registered. In concern and disappointment, Miss Robinson, executive secretary, reported to the Executive Committee (November 4, 1955):

No cost of effort was spared to make this meeting a success. It was thoroughly publicized and promoted; the program personnel should have been a drawing card; the hostess church had been working for months for the careful completion of local preparation, but the business women did not come. At their executive committee meeting the night before the conference, to which the expenses of all Federation chairmen were paid, only nine of 19 federations were represented. This would certainly seem to indicate that the day of separation meetings of this nature for business women is over.

Perhaps Callie Bryant's report of 1959 explained what had taken place: "In reviewing the past year, we note with pleasure the increased number of our business women serving in places of responsibility in their local churches and associations."

North Carolina Federation Dissolved

State Federation of Baptist Business Women was dissolved in March, 1959. The Annual banquet and business meeting was held in connection with the State WMU Annual meeting in Durham. Callie Bryant of Wilmington, state chairman, presided. A review of the origin and history of the State Federation was given by two former federation presidents, Mrs. W. H. Page of Greensboro and Mrs. Bryan Hurd of Cramerton. The following recommendation from the Executive Board of the State Federation of Baptist Business Women was presented and adopted:

In the light of the plans of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to make the total program of Woman's Missionary Society available to all women, we recommend that the Federation of Baptist Business Women of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union be discontinued and that we unitedly give full cooperation to this program.

The entire group moved immediately to the First Baptist Church to attend the evening program of the Annual Session of the State WMU with which body it had always cooperated, but now was willing to coalesce.

Service Through Special Offerings

Woman's Missionary Union's concept of special offerings has been the "over-and-above" gift of money beyond the tithes of possessions. The organization has taught, promoted, and stressed faithful stewardship of the

tithe and offerings. In North Carolina four special offerings are promoted each year.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions

When Miss Lottie Moon appealed to Southern Baptist WMU (1888) to make a Christmas offering to be used to send missionaries to aid her in China, North Carolina Union responded with \$256.28. After her death, the offering which has continued each Christmas, was named the "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." This offering was promoted, prayed for, and given by the women — women only.

North Carolina was one of the early states to endorse the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for "the whole church." The 1956 WMU promotion of this offering through the *Biblical Recorder* stated:

While we open the offering to everyone, let us not fail to encourage everyone to pray for God's work around the world. Missionary Societies are urged to have some of their meetings in observance of this week scheduled at night and open them to the entire church membership. The business women and the men of the church should be considered in working out the schedule for the week. . . . Let them both attend a special meeting to PRAY for foreign missions.

Regarding the offering Miriam Robinson sounded clear and strong, "No designations, please!" And the women listened!!

The Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions

The first "week of self-denial" for home missions goes back to March, 1895, when Miss Heck asked that Woman's Missionary Union pray and give to reduce the Home Mission Board's indebtedness which was threatening the withdrawal of the already too few missionaries serving on the home field. Since 1895, Woman's Missionary Union Offerings have been given each year to help the entire Home Mission Board program.

This offering for home missions was named in 1933 to honor Miss Annie W. Armstrong, the first executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union. Elected in 1888 in Richmond, Virginia, when ten states were officially formed into the Union, Miss Armstrong, a native of Baltimore, worked 18 years without salary, most of the time without traveling expense. Although she resigned in 1906, she continued to urge the women to go forward in missions. "As we develop and strengthen the home base, we build surely and soundly for foreign missions." She believed this and so do women today who are far-sighted and concerned for world missions.

North Carolina State Missions Offering

September has been labeled as "State Missions Month" in North Carolina WMU. During this month a week is designated as the "Season of Prayer for State Missions." Program material is prepared for only one day, but state missions and special ministries demand the need for prayer for a full week.

During the years special committees had the responsibility of securing writers for the program for each age group organization in the WMU family. Since the late '50's, however, most of the program material has been prepared or at least falls under the responsibility of the professional age-level leaders of the WMU staff.

At the 1957 Annual Session of Woman's Missionary meeting in Charlotte the decision was made to cooperate with the Baptist State Convention in the promotion of a State Missions Day. The plan was for the missionary organizations to observe a week of prayer preceding the Sunday on which the Sunday School and the Training Union would study State Missions with the emphasis on State Missions during the worship service, and the whole church bringing an offering. In accord with this decision, Mrs. W. K. McGee, then president of Woman's Missionary Union, wrote in the *Biblical Recorder* September, 1958:

Woman's Missionary Union is happy to join in the promotion of a church-wide offering for State Missions on September 21. We urge the setting of worthy goals, and an effectual presentation of the opportunities and needs to be met by the people's gifts.

The State Mission Offering is now promoted by the Department of Public Relations of the Baptist State Convention, and its distribution determined by the Convention. Woman's Missionary Union promotes it among the WMU organizations of the churches by distributing special programs and envelopes for all Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends organizations.

In 1959, the Executive Board voted that WMS and YWA organizations use the same material for promotion of State Missions. The combined offering for State Missions in 1958 was \$141,456.68.

At the request of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention, Woman's Missionary Union set a separate goal for the State Missions Offering in 1959. The total State Missions Offering received that year was \$25,000 more than the year before.

The Heck-Jones Offering

At the request of Miss Macy Cox, Superintendent for 22 years of the Wilmington Division, a memorial offering was inaugurated in 1924 to honor the memory of Miss Fannie E. S. Heck, president of North Carolina's Woman's Missionary Union for 29 years. In 1947 the North Carolina Union voted to name the offering "Heck-Jones Memorial Offering" in memory of Mrs. W. N. Jones, active in North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union for 52 years. Between the years of 1924 and 1947, the offering grew from \$717.14 to \$21,203.87. Through the years this had been the only offering promoted by the Union which was allocated by it. The allocations were made to foreign missions, home missions, state missions, the promotion of Woman's Missionary Union as well as to a number of miscellaneous requests from the over-and-above the goal requirements.

Heck-Jones Memorial Offering for WMU Promotion

In 1962, the Executive Board voted to change the Heck-Jones Offering to the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering for WMU promotion, and set as a need for this promotion the goal of \$23,000. These decisions were presented as recommendations from the Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union to the 75th Annual Session meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

Mrs. E. N. Gardner, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Executive Board, presented a plan for change in the goal and distribution of funds in this manner:

In North Carolina an emergency brought forth a fourth special offering, 'the Heck-Jones.' In recent years we have allocated this offering to all phases of missions.

Designed to follow the policies of the Southern Baptist Convention in regard to special offerings and realizing that an emergency which cannot be met through other channels does not exist at this time, we propose that the Heck-Jones Offering be designated only as a promotional fund for WMU work in North Carolina. Eliminating the state, home, and foreign mission causes from this Heck-Jones Offering means that we must more earnestly pray and re-double our efforts in giving through the Cooperative Program to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Home Mission Offering, and the State Mission Offering.

The Heck-Jones Memorial Offering in 1962 amounted to \$27,857.86 beyond the goal of \$23,000. This was turned over to the State Convention to be used for State Missions. From 1962 through 1966 the over-and-above Heck-Jones offerings amounted to a little over \$103,950.00. Since 1966, all funds received beyond the adopted goal have been used for the state WMU Camp Building Fund.

This offering supplements the operating budget which comes through the Cooperative Program funds from the Baptist State Convention.

Dependent entirely upon Heck-Jones Memorial Offering are all state leadership training, international work, the Burney Fund, promotion of World Missions Week, gifts to missionaries in the name of Woman's Missionary Union, and since 1966, as already stated, the building fund for the state WMU camp.

Service Through Leadership Training

Leadership Training Courses

Nineteen hundred and fifty-three was the beginning of a new training project of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. This project began with the planning of two Regional Conferences with the aim of training more efficient young people's leaders. North Carolina was honored by being chosen the state in which one of these regional meetings took place. Individual conferences were provided for young people's directors, YWA counselors, G.A. counselors, RA counselors, and Sunbeam Band leaders. This region was made up of representatives from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. Those attending had been chosen

by their states, divisions, or associations because of their potential in working with and training young people's directors in their own localities.

The following year Marie Epley, Young People's Director at that time wrote, "We rejoice that during the past year 48 leaders in North Carolina received cards of accreditation after having completed the leadership courses." Miss Epley encouraged her leaders in every way possible, but it took time and effort before any sizeable number took advantage of the training opportunities offered. During 1957 leadership training was emphasized through correspondence and associational and state promoted conferences. The number of persons taking the course through correspondence was encouraging, and during the year 24 YWA counselors and directors and 67 GA counselors received accreditation cards. Referring to this, in 1958 Miss Robinson said, "These leaders are to be praised. But their number should be at least doubled by the end of the year." During 1959 and 1960 leadership training was a major emphasis. State leaders went into many associations to help with associational, and in a few instances, with local conferences. These efforts resulted during the year in accreditation Leadership Cards having been issued to 188 YWA Counselors, 661 GA Counselors, 586 Sunbeam Band leaders, and 2,024 Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

In April, 1960, Kathryn Bullard, WMS Director, reported that all state missionary fundamental chairmen were holders of the WMS accreditation cards and encouraged all board members to complete the study also as an example to their local leadership.

Advance Leadership Courses

The basic Leadership Courses for all age level organizations taught to associations, groups of churches, and individual churches required an attendance of seven and one-half hours. These courses were prepared by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC and were the same for all states.

Advance Leadership Training courses, however, were prepared and promoted by individual states. The series of nine Advanced WMU Leadership Courses offered by North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union were completed in 1963 and 1964. Appreciation should continue for the series:

WMS Advanced Leadership Training, Kathryn Bullard.

YWA Advanced Leadership Training, Sara Ann Hobbs.

GA Advanced Leadership Training, Willa Dean Freeman.

SB Advanced Leadership Training, Delois Hamrick.

Convention Conference Attendance and Evaluation, Kathryn Bullard.

World Awareness, Willa Dean Freeman.

Prayer, Sara Ann Hobbs.

Christian Witnessing, Kathryn Bullard.

Sharing Possessions, Kathryn Bullard.

The first WMU Advanced Leadership Conference of seven and one-half hours was offered in March, 1961 at the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, with an attendance of 116 women. Only women who already held a current accreditation card for completion of the Basic Leadership Course in WMS,

YWA, GA or SB were allowed to attend, and credit was given only to those who attended the entire course.

Professionals in age-level fields were secured as conference leaders who emphasized above everything else the necessity to understand persons with whom the conferees would be working. This was the only such conference offered during the year, and the thinking was that in all probability, future plans for leadership training on the advanced level would be done through home study and correspondence course training.

The *Biblical Recorder*, March 12, 1966 carried the announcement that six women had completed Advanced Leadership Courses — a series of nine advanced leadership courses. The first to earn these were: Mrs. James R. Lineberger, Hickory Grove Church, Gastonia; Mrs. Joe Moore, First Church, Belmont; Mrs. C. P. McMahan, First Church, Forest City; Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mt. Carmel Church, Seaboard; Miss Erma Lee Woodard, Princeton Church; Mrs. Marvin Shooter, Rowland Church, Rowland.

Approximately 5,000 basic leadership cards were mailed from the WMU Office in 1963, an increase of almost 2,000 over the same period the year before. There was an increase in each organization. These, of course, represented leaders who had never before had leadership training.

Leadership training for local leaders was offered through Jubilee Conferences for a few years. Jubilee Conferences were held to promote the WMU goals set each year (1959-1964) looking toward the 150th Anniversary or World Mission Year (1964). Later the services of State WMU personnel were offered to the 31 associations which made the request to lead in their regular associational leadership conferences. This help was forthcoming on the condition that at least three hours of conference time would be provided. Those conferences were well attended with the women eagerly seeking knowledge about their jobs.

However, Miss Robinson was deeply concerned over the associations which did not feel the need of giving time for these conferences. She faithfully sought to help state personnel understand gaps in the leadership of both associational and local organizations, particularly among the youth organizations and most especially the YWA's. She deplored the fact that many GA's were being promoted "into nothing merely for the lack of leadership."

The Challenge of Service

Covering roughly a five-year period (1956-61), this chapter only partially records the achievements of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. In accepting the challenge to give her "best service" to the "best King," she did so through dreaming, planning, working, celebrating, making necessary changes, sharing possessions, and giving special attention to leadership training.

Chapter III

Patient and Persistent in Fulfillment

“Stand firm and steady. Keep busy, always in your work for the Lord since you know that what you do in the Lord’s service is never wasted.” — I Cor. 15:58 (TEV)

MISS Heck admonished the women of North Carolina to be patient and persistent in fulfillment, adding, “Thus shall your work abide and be abundantly blessed of God to your own joy and the joy of the world.”

With so many emphases, goals, training, and interpretation to be planned and promoted, particularly in connection with the “Third Jubilee Goals,” both Mrs. McGee and her successor learned in a very real way the meaning of patience and persistence.

The New President (1961-1966)

With her background and experience it was a natural that one day Mrs. Leroy Parker would be elected as president of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina. That day came in March, 1961. A native of Greensboro, the former Sara Kanoy, a graduate of Carver School of Missions, a pastor’s wife, with experience in the local church in every phase of Baptist work, committed to Christ, she was ready for the State Union’s highest honor and responsibility. In addition, she had served as Mission Study Chairman in the Piedmont Association, and as vice president of the State WMU for the five years preceding her election. This position had kept her close to all planning and important decisions that had been made. Prior to that she had served two years as assistant secretary of North Carolina WMU, and was at the time serving as the Jubilee Advance Chairman.

With vision and energy, she was ambitious to help the church to fulfill its mission and for five years she worked effectively at this task through



Mrs. A. L. Parker, president 1961-1966

Woman's Missionary Union. As has been said of her, perhaps one of her greatest assets was in her understanding of the emphasis upon correlation and coordination of the church program.

Elected to serve with Mrs. Parker were: First vice-president, Mrs. Henry Gamble, Washaw; Second Vice President, Mrs. Earl James, Elkin; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Marse Grant, Raleigh; Assistant Recording Secretary, Mrs. Julian Porter, Severn.

Others were elected to serve with Mrs. Parker as the need arose. At the 1962 Annual Session, meeting in Asheville, Miss Ruth Williams of Winston-Salem (now secretary to the General Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention) was elected Recording Secretary and Mrs. H. Oliver Davis of Bullock was elected as assistant recording secretary.

In 1965, Mrs. Carl Lewis, Rockingham, was elected second vice-president, and Mrs. Dennis Hockaday, Durham, recording secretary.

Third Jubilee Advance Goals — (1959-1964)

Philadelphia was the place and 1814 was the year for the first national organization of Baptists in America, the Triennial Convention. Looking toward the celebration of the 150th Anniversary, six major Baptist fellowships of North America sought to cooperate in a way to make their Chris-

tian witness on this continent more meaningful and to designate 1964 as World Missions Year. Their efforts and cooperation resulted in specific emphases over a five-year-period. The Southern Baptist Convention adopted emphases and set goals for their advance that 1964 might be a year of worthy celebration. "The 30,000 Movement" became its cooperative effort to establish 30,000 preaching and Bible study stations in new communities over the five-year period. These preaching stations might be in homes for the aging, in prisons, fire stations, etc. Since this movement was missionary in purpose and Woman's Missionary Union felt the responsibility and desire to cooperate with the churches in this movement, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, encouraged the states to adopt these emphases, and to set their own advance goals after considering those suggested by Southern Baptist WMU.

Woman's Missionary Union also declared these five years an "Era of Prayer." To implement these emphases the Southern Union produced eight books to be used during these years. North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union with Mrs. A. L. Parker (appointed by the Executive Board in June, 1958) as Jubilee Advance Chairman, adopted these emphases, set goals and made plans for the study, promotion and attainment of these goals. The local, associational, state, and conventionwide 75th Anniversary goals used to promote World Missions Year follow:

75 percent of the members receiving WMU Magazines;

75 percent of the members reading a missions book;

15 percent increase in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions;

15 percent increase in Annie Armstrong Offerings for home missions;

15 percent increase in tithers;

a five-day observance of Week of Prayer for home and foreign missions;

study of the book *World Awareness* (in the spring of 1963);

special Cooperative Program presentation in each Woman's Missionary Union;

organize or participate in the work of one mission;

WMU Prayer Retreat in each church and in each associational WMU;

cooperate in promotion of World Missions Week.

Promotion of these goals was made through Regional Workshops, workshops for WMU leaders, and particularly, through numerous special one-day Jubilee conferences, which included WMU president, Jubilee chairmen, YWA directors, GA directors, and Sunbeam Band directors.

The year-by-year emphases were stressed in all state meetings, and each year prayer was stressed as the only means through which the goals could be accomplished. Southern Baptist evangelistic emphases by years were: 1959, Christian Witnessing; 1960, Leadership Training; 1961, Sharing Possessions; 1962, Church Extension; 1963, Year of Prayer for World Missions; 1964, World Missions Year, or the Third Jubilee Celebration.

The carefully chosen themes for the annual sessions indicate one way

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina sought to implement these emphases:

1959, Your World To Win

1960, The Light Shineth in Darkness

1961, Freely Ye Have Received . . . Freely Give

1962, Laborers Together With God

1963, We've a Story to Tell

1964, For Liberty and Light

Christian Witnessing Emphasis (1958-1959)

The special book studied, *Christian Witnessing*, by Floy M. Barnard kept the emphasis for the year alive! The statistical goals of 55 percent increase in membership and new organizations were only partially met. However, the increases which were realized might not have materialized without the extra emphasis and promotion. Only 21 of a goal of 100 churches to have a WMU organization reported this accomplishment. The membership goal fell 265 below the goal set. There were three honor WMU's instead of the five, as planned. The failure of the WMS membership to increase by 55 percent subscribing to *Royal Service* was disappointing, but there were 4,742 more than the 10,000 goal of tithers. Also, the YWA's and GA's both exceeded their 55 percent goal of increase in subscriptions to the *Window of Y.W.A.* and *Tell*. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions was not reached, but the goal for Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions was exceeded.

Response to the three Jubilee Conferences was disappointing in-so-far as the number attending (only 247), but only God knows the far-reaching values received by the WMU presidents, the Jubilee chairmen, YWA directors and Sunbeam Band directors as they came together at Fruitland Baptist Camp and Meredith College for these conferences.

Leadership Training Emphasis (1959-1960)

The promotion of leadership training was stressed through local and associational conferences. As a result leadership cards were issued to 2,024 WMS leaders; 188 YWA leaders, 661 GA leaders; and 586 Sunbeam Band leaders. This year the attendance at the Jubilee Conferences was limited to local presidents, Jubilee chairmen, YWA directors, GA directors, and Sunbeam Band directors. At these conferences and on other occasions the Jubilee goals for the year were strenuously promoted and they were well received, but the reporting was not accomplished. The statistical goal met this year was 12 percent increase in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The book, *Educating Youth in Missions* by Mrs. William McMurry, was widely taught and enthusiastically received. Many unions cooperated with their churches in supporting the Southern Baptist Convention program to increase gifts for the Cooperative Program by at least 2 percent of the total church budget. Associations and churches continued to lend their efforts in organizing 30,000 churches and missions. And while a great many of these were not reported, the spirit in which concerted efforts were made to attain

these goals was commendable and certainly there is reason to believe that deep and far-reaching spiritual values did permeate every missionary endeavor.

Other Events

At the request of Southern Baptist WMU president, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, the entire state WMU staff constituted a Speech Choir which read the scripture at the close of each service of the Annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union SBC in Miami, May 15-17, 1960.

At North Carolina WMU Annual Session in Greensboro, 1960, the Bylaws concerning the voting were changed from "delegates" to "voting members."

In the summer of 1960 29 women from North Carolina attended WMU Week at Glorieta, visiting mission points enroute to and from the conference. Miss Bullard, WMS Director, reported: "This adventure was truly an investment in spiritual growth, leadership, world awareness, and a sense of purpose in missions."

On October 1, 1960, Vivian Nowell was welcomed to the WMU office staff as financial secretary. Miss Nowell, a North Carolina Missionary from Wendell, was returning after 21 years of service in Nigeria.

Sharing Possessions Emphasis (1960-1961)

The book promoted for study during this year was *Christian Sharing of Possessions*, by Annie U. Wright. Six of the twelve Jubilee Advance goals adopted by North Carolina WMU were not met. However, there were four instead of the goal of five Honor Woman's Missionary Unions. The fact that the goals for subscriptions to both *Tell* and *The Window of Y.W.A.* were met was encouraging. The 1962 annual report of the Executive Board carried this statement concerning 1961:

The value of reporting is debatable. Our goal is neither organizations nor members, but missions. If somehow a soul is lifted up to glimpse a far horizon and . . . care; if somewhere a heart is inspired to intercession for someone else; if, somewhere a hand is taught to release its grasp from a loaf or a fish that the Lord may bless it to feed the multitudes; if, somewhere, some life is influenced to bear the yoke of discipleship . . . shall we then be discouraged by statistics?

This note of discouragement was due in part to the change in the reporting, and the fact that churches were slow to recognize this change.

Other Changes and Activities

For the first time Woman's Missionary Union had an exhibit at the Baptist State Convention, meeting in Asheville, November 14-17, 1960.

Following a recommendation made by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of a special committee, Mrs. Harry Wood of Leakesville chairman, and voted upon at the Annual Session (1961), Regional WMU organizations were dissolved, bringing the associational officers in direct relationship with the state WMU personnel, thus serving as liaison between

the local and state unions. The recommendation was based upon what seemed a change in programs through the years and the evaluation of regional, associational, local and state leaders.

Also, by change of By-laws at the 1961 Annual Session, the title of associational "superintendent" was changed to "president," and the positions of third vice-president and Margaret Fund Chairmen were discontinued. The work and handling of finances connected with the Margaret Fund were already being handled through the state office.

Associational workshops for training associational officers at North Carolina Baptist Assembly (Caswell) brought 118 participants from 25 associations. Another associational workshop scheduled at Fruitland brought 187 women from 25 associations.

The four Jubilee Conferences brought together a total of 1,170 women, slightly fewer than the number attending in 1960.

Church Extension Emphasis (1961-1962)

The book studied this year was *Enlistment for Missions* by Helen Fling. The major emphasis was on enlisting in missions in order to implement the Convention's effort to organize 30,000 churches and missions. Statistical goals were promoted, but due to the change in the system of reporting any measure of progress would be inaccurate. However, this year in North Carolina was the year of special projects for Woman's Missionary Union:

(1) *Seminary Extension Centers* — Special courses in the work of Woman's Missionary Union were taught in connection with the Seminary Extension Centers at Cherokee, Franklin, Murphy, Robbinsville and Mt. Airy. The total enrollment in these classes was 127. Classes were weekly from 12 to 20 weeks, taught by teachers selected by the Executive Board, and well-trained through 18 hours of intensive study activity. Certificates were awarded to 52 of the 127 attending the classes. The value of these courses was seen in the new societies and youth organizations which were started and in the increased enthusiasm for all phases of missions activity. This very wonderful project was short-lived because of the difficulty of securing qualified teachers who had the time to give to these seven Seminary Extension Centers in Region 10 and Region 7.

(2) *Christian Witness Among Japanese* — The sum of \$500 from Heck-Jones Memorial Offering was given for encouragement to the Christian witness among the 3,000 Japanese wives of military (American) personnel based in North Carolina. This money purchased a Japanese typewriter for use in preparing evangelistic tracts and bulletins for distribution.

(3) GA 50th Anniversary Promotional Conference

In preparation for the 50th Anniversary of Girls Auxiliary (1963) a GA 50th Anniversary Promotional Conference was held in Charlotte in October, 1961. Ninety-five persons representing 35 associations attended. This was promoted by Convention-wide GA Director, Betty Brewer, assisted by Willa Dean Freeman, North Carolina State GA Director.

(4) Prayer Retreat

At the April meeting of the Executive Board, 1961, Mrs. Henry Gamble,

was appointed as Jubilee Chairman. In June, 1961, the Executive Board voted

That since 1963 is the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, we recommend that the days July 15-October 1, 1962 be emphasized as a period of prayer and preparation; that our Jubilee Conferences be prayer retreats and that half of the time given to the associational workshops be used as prayer retreats; the other half be used for methods.

In line with this, the Executive Board and professional state leadership met for a prayer retreat. The three days of prayer, silent meditation, earnest seeking of spiritual guidance, and preparation for the special anniversary provided long periods of spiritual experiences.

(5) *Tar Heel Lodge*

All professional WMU leadership, president and WMU chairmen of mission study, stewardship and community missions occupied for the first time the new *Tar Heel Lodge* at Ridgecrest in August. (Woman's Missionary Union contributed \$550 for the construction of this new lodge.)

A Year of Prayer for World Missions — 1962-1963

Goals set for this year were diligently promoted. In addition to a study of *World Awareness* by Sadie Crawley, the study of *Woman's Missionary Union*, a new history by Alma Hunt, was also promoted. The theme of world missions was featured in conferences and annual meetings. Particular emphasis was placed on five-day observance of all weeks of prayer, particularly home and foreign missions. Prayer retreats were held and repeated emphasis was placed on the organization of new churches and missions.

Woman's Missionary Union cooperated with the plans of the Baptist State Convention to reach into all associations of the state over a ten-year period of time in what was called a long-range program of spiritual advance. This was a plan in which the local church, the association, and the Convention worked together through the long-range plans to advance the Kingdom of God. Each department of work was assigned a particular month, or season, in which to go into the associations for that year. During the spring of 1962, and the winter of 1963, Woman's Missionary Union had seven three-day conferences. Teaching the WMU leadership courses became a part of this long-range program. The Baptist State Convention had as its purpose:

(1) to make available all programs and personnel of the Baptist State Convention to all local churches in orderly, impartial manner and,

(2) to encourage spiritual advance through planning, cooperation, coordination, and survey.

Pre-Anniversary Prayer Retreat

Woman's Missionary Union, SBC initiated the idea of observing 75 days of prayer preceding her Anniversary Year. North Carolina WMU en-

thusiastically endorsed this idea. Response to the 75 days of prayer was most heartening. There were two state promoted workshops and prayer retreats for associational WMU leaders and four prayer retreats for local WMU leaders and members which replaced the Jubilee Leadership conferences. There were 302 leaders from 58 associations at the two state workshops and prayer retreats at Campbell College and Fruitland, and an estimated total of 325 participants at Fruitland, Salisbury, Kinston, and Fayetteville for the local retreats. In commenting on these retreats, Miriam Robinson said,

I would like to record my expression of deep and sincere gratitude for all of the ten members of the 'traveling troupe' of WMU personnel who cooperated so faithfully and effectively in the responsibilities of these meetings. The experience has bound us together with many spiritual ties.

World Missions Year (1963-1964)

Woman's Missionary Union studied *Spiritual Life Development* by Mrs. William McMurry and received a great spiritual uplift from this study.

The year 1963 was the double anniversary year: the 50th Anniversary of Girls Auxiliary, and the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union. High local goals of attainment were set for both the Girls Auxiliary and Woman's Missionary Union. These goals included increases in subscriptions to WMU magazines, membership, reading mission books, tithing, Cooperative Program giving, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, and Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions.

One hundred and forty-two Girls Auxiliaries earned recognition by reaching their 50th Anniversary goals. In addition, at the March, 1963 Annual Session Girls Auxiliary 50th Anniversary was spotlighted on the first night through a pageant setting forth highlights in GA history conventionwide, and particularly statewide. This pageant was written by Willa Dean Freeman, GA Director, with the staging by Miriam Robinson, executive secretary.

During this special year for Woman's Missionary Union 21 associations obtained recognition on the 75th Anniversary goals and 140 local WMU's reached their goals.

The Annual Session meeting in the First Baptist Church, Charlotte, focused its attention on the 75th Anniversary of the 1888 organizational meeting of Woman's Missionary Union SBC, even to the wearing of costumes of the period. Topic headings for this meeting were the same as those used in 1888.

Of special interest at the Annual Sessions in 1962 and 1963 was the gavel used in calling the meeting to order, a gift from Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland. Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland had secured some of the wood from the Eutaw Place Baptist Church in Baltimore from which enough gavels were made to share with all of the State WMU's, asking that these gavels be used by the presidents in presiding over the Annual Session in which the anniversary was observed. (The Eutaw Place Church was the

church of Annie Armstrong and Kathleen Mallory, and many other early leaders of Woman's Missionary Union.) As the year drew to a close, Miss Robinson reminded her co-workers: "We have reveled in the past and been blessed by it. Now let us store away the photographs and calico costumes and direct our faces and efforts faithfully forward toward the future which the work that is done today shall shape."

Significant during this anniversary year was the organization of a students' wives WMS on the campus of Southeastern Seminary. This was sponsored by North Carolina WMU, with the help of Mrs. James Tull of Southeastern. This organization in turn soon led to the organization of two Sunbeam Bands on the campus. North Carolina WMU also assisted in the establishment of a WMU Shelf in the Library at Southeastern Seminary. The shelf included books on methods, manuals, and history.

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union in the person of Miss Robinson, executive secretary, was invited to attend and to be on the program of the State Brotherhood Convention and RA Congress which met in Hickory. In reporting to the Executive Board concerning this meeting Miss Robinson said,

I was so overjoyed with the spirit and attendance that I experienced no weariness. I spoke three times to the entire group and shared in the leadership of two conferences with the Brotherhood presidents and world mission leaders. The men are responding eagerly to the new Brotherhood program of missionary education of men and boys. Of the 1,250 about 700 were Royal Ambassadors, many of them teenagers. The program was entirely missionary in content and spirit. I can see a new day ahead (soon) for Southern Baptist missions through the homes and churches of these men and boys.

Three North Carolina State leaders served on the Ridgecrest staff during WMU week, 1964.

The two workshops for associational WMU leaders drew a larger attendance than ever, a total of 442 women with exactly the same number at Campbell and Fruitland. This number represented 63 associations. The preceding year the attendance was 374.

Literacy Workshops

In 1963 Sara Ann Hobbs and Kathryn Bullard attended a Literacy Workshop in Birmingham planned by Miss Mildred Blankenship, literacy worker of the Home Mission Board. Upon their return literacy workshops consisting of three two-hour sessions were planned for the women of North Carolina. One workshop was held in St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte in February, 1963, with fourteen in attendance. Later the same year another was held at the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, with twenty enrolled and sixteen or seventeen women receiving certificates. Interest in these workshops increased until January 1964, as Miss Bullard gave her report to the Executive Board, she said, "The literacy program is claiming a good deal of my time in workshops and in correspondence."

In March, 1964, Mildred Blankenship was invited to lead a literacy workshop planned for the Chowan Association meeting in Elizabeth City. This workshop was an integrated, interdenominational workshop. It was held in a Presbyterian Church and offered training in the morning and afternoon and at night. As can well be imagined, this workshop accomplished more than just the training of teachers for illiterate adults. Eight churches and seven denominations were represented. Of this number, three were Negro Churches.

Interest in the literacy program grew at an astounding rate so that by 1970, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina offered workshops to train one individual from each association in the Laubach Method (a means to teach reading by "Each One Teach One") as preparation for teaching adults who were unable to read. Eight associations took advantage of this offer with 34 women participating.

In the meantime, Ernest Upchurch, director of City and Metropolitan Missions, encouraged by the Home Mission Board, also became interested in the Literacy Program and began scheduling workshops. Woman's Missionary Union, while continuing its interest, assumed a cooperative role, helping Mr. Upchurch conduct these workshops whenever he felt the need, and providing financial help with this project.

The Five-Year Spiritual Growth Program

The Five-year Spiritual Growth Program was North Carolina State Baptist Convention's counterpart to the Southern Baptist Convention's "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission" emphasis including the years 1965-1969.

Looking Toward North Carolina's Spiritual Growth Program

The need for adequate guidance for the associations and churches in the coordination and correlation of the church programs organizations (Sunday School, Church Ministries and Training, Brotherhood WMU, Church Music), necessitated an increasing number of inter-departmental planning meetings on the state level. In addition, it was necessary to have numerous staff meetings of convention personnel to plan concerning North Carolina's Spiritual Growth Program. Woman's Missionary Union cooperated in preparing Spiritual Growth Program manuals for use by churches participating in this plan and trained associational WMU leadership to conduct conferences in the Spiritual Growth Clinics held for all church program leaders.

Dr. W. Perry Crouch, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, planned with all department directors a two-week leadership tour to cover the entire state through a ten-member touring group of the convention staff, including some member of the state personnel or executive board representative. Each staff member of this group of ten led conferences for his respective organization with the purpose of acquainting the leaders with the new emphasis. Only local and associational WMU presidents, or their substitutes, were eligible to attend the WMU groups. These meetings were scattered over the state including Waynesville, Hick-

ory, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Lumberton, Ahoskie, and Jacksonville.

This introduction and promotion of plans for a more unified program in the local church proved exceedingly valuable from the standpoint of what was accomplished through those who attended and from the standpoint of the social and spiritual fellowship of the traveling group. The attendance of WMU presidents at each of these meetings exceeded that of any other conference group. Of the approximate 2,500 reached, 433 were WMU presidents (for the year 1964).

Enthusiastic Promotion

Woman's Missionary Union, as during the Jubilee years, entered enthusiastically into the study and promotion of the new church program approach to spiritual growth. Emphasis was shifting from programs to people, as leadership realized that serving people is more important than presenting programs. The new book, *The Woman's Missionary Union Program of a Church* by Marie Mathis, Director of Promotion Division, Southern WMU, and Elaine Dickson, her assistant, needed to be studied and interpreted. And it was.

The themes selected for the annual sessions of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina carried forth the spirit of the Convention's emphases. For example, a "Church Fulfilling Its Missions Through Worship" and the WMU theme, "O Worship the King," 1965; "A Church Fulfilling Its Missions Through Proclamation and Witnessing" and the WMU theme "The Gospel — to all Nations," 1966; "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Education" and the WMU theme "Go on Growing," 1967; "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Ministry" and the WMU theme Matt. 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethern, ye have done it UNTO ME," 1968; "A Church Fulfilling Its Mission Through Evangelism and Missions," and the WMU theme "Ye Shall be Witnesses," 1969.

A Time for Mourning

In January of 1965, God called home Mrs. William McMurry, former director of Missionary Fundamentals and later director of Promotion Division of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. Perhaps no single woman during her generation had inspired and challenged so many, both men and women, to become active in missions. Both her words and her manner commanded a hearing. She spoke with authority because she had been with the Lord. She was known and loved all over the world. An untiring worker for her Lord, she gave graciously of her time and talents, not only in Birmingham, but wherever she was needed. Space is given to her memory in this history because Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina was fortunate to have her, both as inspirational speaker, and as a conference leader on many occasions. During the fifties, her spiritual and knowledgeable influence compelled the "fundamentals chairman" — stewardship, community missions, prayer, and mission study in particular — to set and work toward

undreamed-of goals. North Carolina older women continue to honor her memory with love and appreciation through avenues of service she inspired them to attempt.

Concern Over Current Problems

At the annual session meeting in Greensboro, 1965, a resolution was presented and adopted that Woman's Missionary Union record her concern over the problems of unsavory and vulgar movies and reading matter and individually seek to influence public opinion through: (1) encouraging others in the community to show concern; (2) expressing concern to legislators about the growing problem; (3) calling prayer attention of women of Woman's Missionary Union; (4) making surveys of newsstands to register concern.

North Carolina WMU, Hostess to International Guests

In 1965 Mrs. Parker, the state president, other officers, and state personnel who were present at the Baptist World Congress in Miami, greeted a large number of North Carolinians at a reception given by North Carolina WMU in honor of six international guests. They were Mrs. Joao F. Soren, wife of the president of the Baptist World Alliance, and five other women representing the Baptist Women's Union from different areas: Mrs. Leon Chow, Taipei, Taiwan; Mrs. Joan Nyathe, Gatoona, Rhodesia; Mrs. Elena Cde Garcia, Lima, Peru; Mrs. R. G. Codrington, Johannesburg, Africa; and Mrs. Fawaz Imeish, Ajloun, Jordan.

This delightful reception was a highlight experience for North Carolinians in fellowship with faraway, outstanding Christian leaders. And this experience was made possible because the state WMU followed the request of Mrs. Mathis, president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, to assist internationals in attending the Congress. Mrs. Parker presented this request to the Executive Board which voted the contribution of \$3,500 to help these women attend.

In addition to persons who traveled by other forms of transportation, Woman's Missionary Union chartered two buses, and the women on these buses enjoyed a tour of special mission interest to and from the Congress.

A New Plan Emerges

The pattern of one WMS with multiple youth organizations composing the WMU family of a church began to change. The question, "why only one WMS?" was asked in North Carolina, as in other states. It was answered in 1961-1962 as local Executive Boards were encouraged (with suggested guidelines) to use their own initiative in deciding how and when to start one or more additional WMS organizations. This was in accord with a plan approved by Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board, SBC in 1960.

By 1964, *Woman's Missionary Society Manual* was published as a guide

to this new concept of having more than one WMS. The mission study chart was dropped and "Plan A," a guide for churches with one WMS, and "Plan B" a guide for churches with more than one WMS, was adopted. The circle plan, used since 1917, remained as the unit of the society, meeting separately each month to supplement the missionary endeavor of Woman's Missionary Society. The circles were then united into a society at the monthly general missionary program meeting taken from *Royal Service*.

In the new plan, more responsibility was assigned to committees. The society elected the chairmen, and the president appointed from three to five other members to serve with the chairmen of the following committees:

Enlistment, Program, Mission Study, Community Missions, Stewardship, Publications, Publicity, and Social.

The committee plan allowed for a more evenly distributed work load. It gave opportunities for more people to participate. It provided opportunities for developing individual skill and leadership ability, and it emphasized the value of group thinking. These committees presented their thinking to the Executive Board which served as the coordinator of a sustained plan of work and promotion. This was especially important in the rotating and sustained activities and in community missions surveys.

This new plan brought about a considerable change in reporting, which accounts for many references made to the lack of inaccuracy of reporting during this period from 1960 to 1963. It was only natural that such a change would at times bring about a state of confusion in some local societies. The WMU report became a combination of the WMS, YWA, GA, and Sunbeam Band reports. Then this report was sent to the associational WMU president at mid-year, and at the close of the year.

Interracial Work

Work with Negroes

North Carolina was the second state in the Southern Baptist Convention to follow the suggestion set forth by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, as a part of its Golden Jubilee celebration in 1938, that definite plans for interracial work be begun.

The programs have varied, and meetings have been held in both white and Negro churches scattered over the state.

From the days of Miss Heck, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has given of interest, prayers, and money to encourage and train leadership of Baptist Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention (Negro). Much of this was done through institutes which began in 1941 at Shaw University, and through regional meetings in the Negro churches. Beginning in 1942 Women's Missionary Convention was assisted financially by a \$1,000 gift each year to help undergird the Department of Missionary Education at Shaw University, Raleigh. Scholarships were furnished in a limited way. In 1951, financial assistance was given to Women's Missionary Convention for its first missionary camp for young

people, and about 130 teenaged boys and girls came to Shaw University for a week.

A special feature of cooperation with the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention this particular year was the gift of \$500 from Heck-Jones Memorial Offering to meet the expenses of a state camp for Negro young people and an effort to enlist missionary societies to send or take Negro women to the Interracial Institute at Shaw University July 17-18. Several missionary societies responded.

There was no Interracial Institute in 1952; however, the \$1,500 was contributed.

The 1955 report reads:

In cooperation with the Negro Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention the North Carolina WMU resumed the plan of summer institutes — one a day, meeting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Asheville, the other at Shaw. Many societies assisted in getting Negro women to these training opportunities.

Financial aid and institutes continued through the years that followed. Persons who attended these institutes experienced unusual insights into the values and need of interracial cooperation. Expressions from members of both Conventions were most encouraging and surely the Holy Spirit was felt by the more than 500 Negro and white men and women who attended these institutes.

There were two Interracial Institutes in 1958: one at Shaw University and the other at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. The Shaw meeting was attended largely by Negroes; the Winston-Salem meeting was attended by both Negroes and whites. Thus, in cooperation with the leaders of the Women's Missionary Convention, two interracial institutes were planned each year through 1963.

For a few years the institutes were held in the western part of the state (Asheville, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Durham, and at Shaw University). Then the policy of a white church west of Raleigh and a Negro church in Raleigh was tried. In 1962, institutes were held in Durham (44 Negro and 67 white persons attended). In 1963 the institutes were held at Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and First Negro Baptist Church, Statesville.

Also, in 1963 Mrs. M. A. Horne, president of Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Union, spoke at the North Carolina WMU Annual Session. In spite of what seemed a declining interest, three interracial institutes were planned for 1964. However, at the July 8, 1964 Executive Board meeting Miss Robinson reported that no place had been secured for an interracial institute in the East although two attempts had been made. Their response was, "It is not considered advisable or wise at this time with climate and tensions being what they are."

In view of the tenseness and the racial situation at this time, the president and executive secretary of the Negro Baptist women and Miss Robinson and Miss Bullard agreed not to attempt to find a meeting place for a third institute. Nonetheless, on June 5, 1964, the Executive Board voted to make

a gift of \$1,000 to Shaw University on its indebtedness in an effort to maintain accreditation. In its quarterly meeting on January 6, the Executive Board voted to discontinue the annual Interracial Institutes which had been jointly planned and sponsored since 1941. In view of the seriousness of the decision Miss Robinson, executive secretary, asked for five minutes on the program (January, 1965) of the Leadership Session of Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention. She wanted to explain the reason for the Board's action. Her statement (in part) follows:

On January 6, our Board voted to discontinue the two annual Interracial Institutes which have been jointly planned and sponsored by your organization and ours since 1941 . . . We believe that their purpose has now been achieved. Therefore, instead of holding two special meetings, branded "interracial," attended by a few of us and a few of you, we prefer that all of our meetings shall now become interracial. Here and now, and from this day on, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina extends a general and cordial invitation to all of our Negro Baptist friends to attend all statewide WMU gatherings throughout the year. Neither we nor you can speak for our individual churches. This is our Baptist democracy in practice. And it is only when the opinion of some individual or group differs from our own that we are irritated by the principle of democracy!

North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Southport is open to you all summer by reservation through Dr. Grigg's office. Your girls who meet the same qualifications that we require of our own are invited to any of our six weeks of Girls' Auxiliary camps at the Assembly at Southport or our Baptist Camp at Hendersonville.

We believe the decision of our Board is a forward step. Much progress has been made since 1941. Without a doubt the Interracial Institutes have helped. It is our earnest prayer that along with the guarantee of civil rights all human restrictions upon Christian rights may soon be removed and the privilege of Christian fellowship be made available to all who desire it.

**In January, 1965 Woman's Missionary Union employed the first Negro secretary to work in the Baptist Building. Beulah Gill of Raleigh, replaced the literature secretary, Eva Jones, who became Administrative Assistant in the WMU office.*

**Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has continued to make a gift to the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Union to be used for the Negro summer camps for young people.*

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina continues still to allocate funds for Interracial Cooperation. Allocations are made for Indians, Negroes and international student work.

International Student Retreats

It was during the Thanksgiving season weekend, 1958, when Miss Miriam Robinson attended her first international student retreat, meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. This retreat was co-sponsored by Virginia and

North Carolina. Of the total attendance of 127 students, 76 were from North Carolina.

When Sara Ann Hobbs became state YWA Director, she attended these retreats regularly. She could see first-hand the value of financial investment of Woman's Missionary Union to help pay the expenses of foreign students studying in the American colleges. In addition to help in paying the expenses of the foreign students, money was given to pay the total expenses of American students who would be effective Christian representatives in life and word to these students. These retreats grew from year to year so that by 1962, 150 students from 40 countries attended. Again the retreat was sponsored by North Carolina and Virginia, and it met in Williamsburg on Thanksgiving weekend.

In 1964 a total of 76 North Carolina students attended the retreat, 58 internationals, 13 American students and five staff personnel. By 1965, due to the growth of the number of students attending the student retreat, and with the larger number seemingly from North Carolina, the Baptist Student Union of North Carolina planned its first state-international retreat to meet in Reidsville. This plan has continued with the exception of 1969 when North Carolina and South Carolina jointly sponsored an international retreat at Ridgecrest.

Appreciation for these retreats has been expressed by many students in different ways. An American student wrote: "I would like to thank the Woman's Missionary Union for making it possible to really share Christ at Thanksgiving."

An African student expressed appreciation this way:

I wish to offer my humble thanks and appreciation to the organizers of this function and also to the young American students who did not go home to their parents only to be with and share with us.

From the very beginning these retreats have claimed the attention and support of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, both through representative attendance and financial aid. The amount of \$1,500 is allocated annually for this cooperative international service.

Prominence of Mission Action

It was during the Five-Year Spiritual Growth Program that Mission Action came to the forefront in conferences and workshops. It really was an old emphasis in a new dress. It had been called "personal service," "community missions," "Christian witnessing," but now it was "mission action." According to the *Woman's Missionary Union Program of the Church*:

Mission Action is the organized effort of the church to extend its ministry and witness to persons of special need or circumstances not presently enrolled or immediate prospects for membership in the church or its organization.

Mission Action was explained and challenged by such terms as "short-term" projects and "on-going programs."

Other Mission Projects

Other special mission projects conducted by Woman's Missionary Union were: mission offering projects, prayer projects, weeks of prayer, prayer retreats, and special prayer meetings.

In Mrs. Leroy Parker's address to the annual session in 1966, (the end of her term as president) she said,

In our emphasis on mission action, we have stressed the giving of self. The opportunities which have come as women and young people have shared Christ's love . . . can be means of determining the 'future of the future!' In this message to you, may I express my desire that each of us will experience the joys gained in service, the blessings received in prayer, the burdens born in involvement, the sacrifices available in giving, the responsibilities acquired in knowledge, and the happiness found in following God's will.



Chapter IV

New and Broader Plans

“Changes will come: new faces take the place of old; new and broader plans succeed those of today; but our beloved Union is safe in our Master’s care.” — Fannie E. S. Heck

A New President (1966-1971)

MRS. Knolan Benfield, Sr., wife of the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Morganton, was elected president, succeeding Mrs. A. L. Parker, at the 75th annual session of Woman’s Missionary Union.

Mrs. Benfield’s interest and involvement in her own church and association, in addition to her experience as state Stewardship Chairman, had acquainted her with the strengths and weaknesses of the state and placed her in a strategic position of challenging the best service of the women of the state. They welcomed anew her charming, unassuming manner, and her genuine friendly spirit they already knew. They watched her grow in Christian dedication and strong leadership. They felt her earnestness in seeking God’s will and leading.

Elected to serve with her were: first vice-president, Mrs. Gilmer Cross of Goldsboro; second vice-president, Mrs. Carl Lewis of Rockingham; recording secretary, Mrs. Dennis Hockaday of Durham; and assistant recording secretary, Mrs. H. Oliver Davis of Bullock.

Mrs. Benfield became president during the year-emphasis “The Gospel — to all Nations” of the five-year Spiritual Growth Program. She worked hard to promote the remaining year-by-year emphasis.

During the years she served she worked through, with the help of the officers, the state staff, and the local societies:



Mrs. R. Knolan Benfield, president 1966-1971

The loss of the state WMU Executive Secretary, Miriam Robinson;
 The planning, construction and opening of a state-wide camp;
 New changes looking toward the '70's
 Revision of Woman's Missionary Union By-laws.

The Loss of an Executive Secretary (1968)

Miss Robinson, a great believer in the truth that, "there is no emergency measure by which God's work will be done if we fail to do it," felt led back into the teaching profession at Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee. With her going, many North Carolinians felt a great personal loss.

Persons who worked closely with Miss Robinson knew that when she suggested changes, she had not come to the decision hurriedly, but that she had prayed, meditated, deliberated, surveyed, and sought wisdom beyond her own. She had great faith in the leaders, and helped them to have faith in themselves by entrusting to them specific responsibilities.

Miss Robinson shared many burdens of friends and acquaintances. In personal, quiet reflection she wrote her own beautiful message of encouragement, congratulations, sympathy, or found appropriate words expressed by another to share.

In her last report to the Executive Committee she said:

These 13 years and two months by August 31, have been blessed ones.
 Through shared work, joys and sorrows, my heart has been knit to the

hearts of the women of North Carolina, and especially the Executive Board members who have served through the years. In the heavy responsibility of the position of Executive Secretary I have earnestly tried to do my very best. This has not always been enough to be successful. I am aware of many of my shortcomings and am confident that they are even more than that, but my zeal for missions is very genuine. I do pray that it has been contagious. A world such as ours, at a time such as this, demands that each of us give herself more completely, directly and realistically to proclaiming and living the only saviour. I will never really leave you.

Nashville is just another corner of the vast mission field in which we shall continue to labor together.

In reply to a request for personal evaluation of her years as secretary, Miss Robinson kindly responded:

My personal philosophy and goal was to give emphasis to the spiritual motivation which must prompt all effective Christian service. I was not a good "methods" person because I believe individuals and organizations will be guided through prayerful communion with the Lord, who IS the Way. And I do not think the methods can be uniform. For this reason I tried to promote Prayer Retreats, separate from or with the methods conferences: for Board (WMU), associations and local organizations. I was deeply grateful for the development of the youth work which was evidenced in many ways. This was not MY doing . . . but was undergirded by my prayers and thanksgiving. Perhaps the one thing of most enduring value that took place during my term of service was the launching of plans for Camp Mundo Vista. I also rejoice in the closer working relationship that developed between the Baptist State Convention and WMU.

The Joy of a New Executive Secretary

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union was fortunate to have a member of its own professional staff trained and ready to take Miss Robinson's place.

Having served eight years as state YWA Director, and just finishing her second year as GA Director when Miss Robinson resigned, Sara Ann Hobbs, a native of Alabama, was elected by the state WMU Executive Board in October, 1968. Already known and loved all over the state, WMU leaders had confidence in her as a person, and in her ability to lead. Her attractive person and her sense of humor served to enhance her personality.

She brought with her in addition to her knowledge and experience, the ability to hold an audience, vitality, courage, creativity, and the "know-how" in evaluating plans and working through change. Having already visited mission points in Europe and the Middle East, Alaska, and many other mission points under the direction of the Home Mission Board, she also came with an enlarged vision and understanding of world needs.

In her very first report to the Executive Board, Miss Hobbs said,

"The first word to describe me this quarter is INSPIRED. I have been inspired by the many messages of support and prayer.



Sara Ann Hobbs, executive secretary 1968-1977

“The second word is OVERWHELMED at all there is to be done, and how fast the work hours seem to get away!”

In this same report she revealed something more of how Woman’s Missionary Union through the executive secretary relates to the Baptist State Convention:

Many hours have been spent in conference time, both with the WMU personnel and other Baptist Building personnel. Early in October, I spent several hours in conference with Dr. Crouch concerning the relationship of Woman’s Missionary Union to the Baptist State Convention. He is eager to assist us and to work with us in promotion of Woman’s Missionary Union . . . The Church Programs Division meets monthly which meeting the entire WMU staff attends; followed by a department secretaries’ meeting, which I attend; this followed by a WMU staff meeting.

Camping in the Woman’s Missionary Union Program

Change in Camping Program

Even before 1917, when North Carolina Woman’s Missionary Union conducted its first state conference at Ridgecrest, the women had met at Wrightsville Beach during the summer for mission study. Although the

women continued to meet for study, as the years slipped by, the Royal Ambassadors and Girls' Auxiliaries need for camping experiences and their interest in camping claimed the attention of the mother organization. A strong camp program was promoted and even with the purchase by the Baptist State Convention of "Caswell-by-the-Sea," (North Carolina Baptist Assembly, Southport) and Fruitland Baptist Camp (Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute), there still existed the need for more room and better facilities.

So with inadequate facilities and because of the changes in the philosophy of church camping, the time had come for a change. Miss Robinson suggested that consideration be given to a separate campsite for Woman's Missionary Union and pointed out the needs for a special study for the future camping program and the facilities needed for such a program.

After discussion Mrs. Knolan Benfield, state WMU president, appointed at the January, 1967 Executive Board meeting a WMU Camp Committee with Mrs. A. L. Parker of Greensboro as chairman. Others appointed to serve with Mrs. Parker were Mrs. Gilmer Cross, Goldsboro; Mrs. Perry Starnes, Hickory; Mrs. William M. Murray, Wilmington; Mrs. A. L. Stancil, Rocky Mount; Mrs. T. A. Lineberger, Connelly Springs; and Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant, North Wilkesboro.

The Camp Committee at Work

The Camp Committee took its responsibility seriously, and by the time of the April 1967 WMU Executive Board meeting, the following recommendations were passed:

1. That the State WMU Executive Board authorize the WMU Camp Committee to present to the Executive Committee of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention the request for permission to build a WMU Camp at the location which seemed best suited for its uses; and
2. That the WMU Camp Committee be authorized to proceed with the necessary steps for acquiring the camp site in accordance with the plans of the Baptist State Convention.

Mrs. Parker reported to the Executive Board meeting in July that the committee felt the land adjoining Camp Caraway best suited the needs of Woman's Missionary Union. The Camp Committee sent a request to the Executive Committee of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention for permission to build on the 130 acres of the southwest portion of the area owned by the Baptist State Convention. Mrs. Parker moved that if the General Board granted the request of the committee that two recommendations be presented to the General Board in its session in July, 1967:

1. That the North Carolina Baptist State Convention be requested to purchase one acre of land adjoining the southwest corner of the previously requested 130 acres in order to provide a safe and more convenient access to the proposed campsite;

2. That the Woman's Missionary Union be given permission to borrow \$260,000 to build on the proposed property.

Request for this permission was guided to fruition through the understanding and concern of the General Board president, the late Gilmer Gross, long time friend of Woman's Missionary Union. It was enthusiastically supported by Perry Crouch, general secretary, Nathan Brooks, Jr., director, Division of Church Programs; the Brotherhood, Royal Ambassadors leaders, and others.

Permission was granted to borrow the needed money, but the General Board of the Baptist State Convention did not agree to buy the acre of land. Later, Woman's Missionary Union purchased the acre of land for the entrance, and approximately 20 additional acres which were needed for the desired camp facilities. This purchase was deeded to the Baptist State Convention by Woman's Missionary Union.

Since camping played such a significant role in the work of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, high standards in design, development, operation, and programing were set. The camp committee took counsel from reports of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, particularly as it related to the growing trend in outdoor recreation.

To assist in their planning, the committee sought the advice of Charles C. Stott of Raleigh who was later employed as camp planner, Robert Hedrick



Mrs. A. L. Parker accepting proposed plans from camp planner, Charles C. Stott



View from site of proposed chapel

who was employed as architect for the camp buildings, and B. W. Jackson, as building supervisor. Since Mr. Jackson was already at Camp Caraway, just across the road from the new camp building site, this was a fortunate solution for Woman's Missionary Union's need and she paid a proportionate part of his salary as he continued to work at Caraway for the Baptist State Convention.

The committee soon came up with a master long-range-plan — prepared to meet the needs as seen and evaluated at the time. A diagram of the camp shows the care and vision with which the camp committee worked. It was designed to the use of the decentralized concept of camping. The side units accommodate from 32 to 40 campers. Each unit contains four cabins caring for 8 to 10 campers and a unit lodge available to each unit. Each cabin has a cook-out area which may also be used for a vesper area and each unit has a large cook-out-vesper area. The five units share three open play areas, a lake plus the site of another proposed lake on the west side of the camp. Also, a lovely swimming pool was added.

The units, are approximately 250 yards apart, and approximately one thousand feet from the dining lodge, swimming pool, and activity building. The relatively compact layout was planned in accordance with the terrain.

Construction began in February, 1968. When announcement went out that the facilities would be open for use in the summer, 1969, requests for

registration went far beyond the capacity of the facilities. This situation has continued until the present time.

Great thought was given to the protection of the natural scenic values of the camp along with every effort to allow wild life in the area to remain undisturbed as far as practicable. Leaders responsible for directing programs during the summer, retreats and short-term conferences were trained in out-door skills and campsite conservation. The natural beauty was preserved so that every person might enjoy, yet not disturb or collect wild flowers or shrubs except as under the direction of a camp staff member for use in a nature study.

The Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union elected Sara Ann Hobbs, then GA Director, to serve as the WMU Camp director until January, 1969. Also, on recommendation of the Camp Committee, the Executive Board voted to elect annually, in January upon recommendation of the personnel committee, the camp director.

After June of 1969, a continuing camp committee was appointed, consisting of five members, at least two of whom shall have served the previous year. These were to be appointed annually by the state WMU president in consultation with the Camp Director, and the WMU Executive Secretary and approved by the Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board.

Facilities include a dining hall, activity building, guest lodge, 20 cabins, five bath houses, three unit lodges, swimming pool, and outdoor chapel. Two more unit lodges are to be constructed as finances permit.

“Mundo Vista”

Notice was put in the *Biblical Recorder* and *Charity and Children* in October of 1967, asking for name suggestions for the new camp, not more than two words, incorporating the purpose of the camp.

From the names sent in, “Mundo Vista,” the Spanish for “World View” was chosen. The inspiration for this name came from a Cuban girl, Iris Garcia, who was living in the home of the Reverend and Mrs. Hoyle Allred, pastor of the Flint Grove Baptist Church, Gastonia, while attending a North Carolina Baptist College.

The dedication of “Mundo Vista” took place on June 26, 1969. Mrs. R. Knolan Benfield, president of Woman's Missionary Union, presided over the dedication. Miriam Robinson, past executive secretary, in whose heart was born the idea of this camp, spoke on “The Past is Thrilling,” and Sara Ann Hobbs, present executive secretary, brought a message, “The Future is Bright.” Mrs. A. L. Parker, chairman of the Camp Committee led in a litany of dedication. Janet Wilson, of Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee, who served as Young People's Secretary of North Carolina for four years, presented a song as part of the dedication service. The song, composed by Miss Wilson, became the official song for Camp Mundo Vista:

“When His hungry heart haunts our hearts
It is time for us to start
for Mundo Vista.

Templed woods, God set apart
As altars for our questing hearts to share.”
“High in the hills of Carolina
Like warm sun shining
He sends his glorious presence.”
“Heaven speaks through nature’s sounds,
And sparkling laughter’s found
at Mundo Vista.
Cherished days are clearly crowned
With visions high to send us on our way.”
“We cannot stay
at Mundo Vista
A hungry world is waiting to be shown
How much our Saviour cares.”

Excerpts from Miss Hobbs’ message reveal the dual meaning “Mundo Vista:”

We do not come to dedicate the building, but the lives of those who shall eat and sleep and walk within these walls. We come to dedicate not only those young people who will ‘come to camp’, but ourselves as leaders, as staff, as state WMU personnel.

A prettier location would be hard to find. A more perfect blending of building and surroundings would be hard to attain.

We hope we can teach our campers to love and respect all races and all kinds of persons. It is for this reason that the facilities are open to anyone who wishes to attend. During the summer we will have staff from at least four countries and missionaries from many others.

It is not surprising to us that the majority of women appointed as missionaries came to this decision while at a camp such as this. We do not aim to call all girls to mission field, but we do aim to develop that heart sensitivity to the voice of God that makes it easy for him to be heard and makes it imperative that he be followed.

We can expect women to come for training and go home with better ideas and greater commitment.

Camp Mundo Vista — A Place of Beauty

Camp Mundo Vista is a beautiful “nature center” with great opportunities for appreciating the creations of God — the soil, wild life, trees, water, wild flowers and landscape. Labeled nature trails, led by dedicated lovers of nature, can send girls and women home with an appreciation which will brighten their days the rest of their lives. The feel of the out-door chapel undergirded by overhanging rock, walled by oak, hickory and pine trees, presents a world view of beauty stretched over miles seen through a 90 degree expanse. All paths lead to the one path that leads to this outdoor chapel where conversation ceases, and beauty and wonder reign.

This chapel has been landscaped in memory of Frances Gilreath, late daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath (Mrs. Gilreath then serving as first vice-president of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina).



Outdoor chapel, Camp Mundo Vista



Landscaping of out-door chapel in memory of Frances Gilreath

Frances was the camp nurse during the summer of 1972. She left the position as pediatric nurse in H. Egleston, Hospital for Children, Atlanta, Georgia, to come to North Carolina. Her commitment to Christian faith was revealed in what she said about her work there: "For me there remains but to reveal His love to these children during the short lives they may live." And on her application for the position of nurse at Camp Mundo Vista she said, "I feel that I have much to offer those I will come in contact with more than merely medical care, and I am sure that I, too, will profit from this experience." She did indeed have much to offer. Her energy, her sense of humor, and her love for people helped to enrich the lives she touched while at this camp.

Mundo Vista — A Place of Training

Mundo Vista is used, in addition to camp for Girls in Action and Acteens, for leadership training for adult leaders of youth organizations and for retreats and conferences for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women. Three major emphases of these retreats are: Mission study, participation in mission action, and mission support through praying and giving.

The development of the total person is the aim result of a visit to Mundo Vista. As one Acteens camper put it, "Mundo Vista is many things to many different girls: Bible study, mission study, quiet time, recreation, entertainment, cook-out, sharing with a friend. But most of all, camp is experiencing God and learning to share his love with others."

Mundo Vista — A Staff

Mundo Vista is a staff of about 50 girls during summer camp. Staff members include a nurse, a music and drama director, a nature and crafts director, a water safety director, unit leaders, and counselors. The counselors are responsible for a group of campers assigned each week. They also supervise the counselors in training (high school graduates or Acteen members, 17 years old and up).

Staff members, according to the policies set forth, are expected to participate in the total camp program. They are expected to set the finest example of Christian conduct and conversation, attitude and action, on and off duty. They are to maintain a loyal camp spirit and actively participate in the local church serving the camp.

Mundo Vista — A Place and Time for Commitment

Mundo Vista sometimes provides the time and place for an individual's first meeting with God. Through planned programs, living with and listening to missionaries, the evening meditations, or nature walks — God often speaks. This realistic speaking is evidenced through professions of faith, commitment of life to Christian living and vocations, and offerings.

Each summer there have been approximately 200 professions of faith in Jesus Christ and approximately 175 girls making a public commitment of life to God's leadership.

As proof of the campers' stewardship, their offerings yearly have

amounted to (1969-72) between seven and eight thousand dollars. The use of this offering is voted by the Executive Board. From the beginning the staff adopted the policy of giving their tithe which has amounted to over \$2000 during this period. Sometimes this offering goes for camp improvement; sometimes for missions. The staff makes the decision.

Campership Program

From the very beginning Mundo Vista was opened to all races and nationalities, especially through the scholarship camper program, later changed to the campership program. This program affords an opportunity for girls who cannot afford to pay to attend. The county Social Services Department cooperates with State Acteens Director, Jolene Ivey, in suggesting the girls who attend. This campership program includes 50 camperships each summer on a first-come-first-served basis, with no more than five campers from any one county.

Financing Camp Mundo Vista

During the time of planning and building, costs climbed at an amazing rate. Thus, the report of the Executive Board to the 1971 Annual Session read: "When the Executive Board voted to proceed with the building of Camp Mundo Vista, few WMU leaders realized the magnitude of this project or the potential. Who could anticipate that the total building costs would rise to \$407,571.72?"

Development and financing of Camp Mundo Vista are handled separately from the regular operating expenses of Woman's Missionary Union. All contributions made above the amount needed for the promotion account of the Heck-Jones Offering including rental of the camp or special gifts are used for the development of the camp site and for additional payments.

Another means of support came through the "Operation Pay-off" plan. Each local Woman's Missionary Society was asked to set a goal of one-dollar per member for the Heck Jones Memorial Offering for 1970 and 1971.

A third plan for paying for the camp indebtedness came through an appeal to those who would like to make special gifts of \$100 or more. "A book of gifts" which remains at Camp Mundo Vista contains the names of all who have found joy in sharing Mundo Vista's indebtedness through special gifts.

From time to time improvements have been made at the camp and extra facilities provided. During 1972, for example, 200 additional chairs were bought and money was spent to provide a space for the new maintenance superintendent, Jason Lee, who assumed responsibilities on January 1, 1972. In addition, light units were installed on play areas, and other places where needed. Also, additional fire extinguishers were purchased.

Baptist State General Board Meets at "Mundo Vista"

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union hosted the General Board of the Baptist State Convention at Mundo Vista in 1969. The men and women

were so impressed and pleased at the beauty and the convenience that they asked for the privilege of coming back each October. This they have continued to do.

Newer Concepts

Throughout the years there have been individual members of Woman's Missionary Union who have felt that their first allegiance was to the church, Christ's bride, and then to Woman's Missionary Union. However, it has taken years of serious thinking and policy changing and a seeking for newer concepts of service finally to bring into being and into print the fact that Woman's Missionary Union is a program of a church and that her task is to help that church fulfill its mission of making the truth of God known to the entire world.

Preparation for changes came through *The Woman's Missionary Union, Program of a Church*, (Mathis, Dickson) states, "In writing the book the authors have respected the historical viewpoints of Woman's Missionary Union while expressing the WMU program of a church in a new context — a context of cooperative planning and correlated endeavor."

The changes initiated by Southern Baptist WMU to begin in 1970, were accepted with quiet understanding in North Carolina. This calmness can be explained by the patience, the planning, and the faithful dedication of the leadership of North Carolina to interpreting certain principles of organization which were introduced in 1968 and even earlier. The changes which were made in 1970 were built on these principles, many already in practice.

For example, in January, 1968 an Interpretation Clinic was held for the state leadership to discuss the newer plans to be put into action in 1970. In February an Interpretation Class on the new WMU plans was held for the office staff on "Shaping the 70's." These types of classes continued through the church program leadership conferences on an associational level. WMU age level directors participated in these conferences with a favorable response of almost 1,000 women attending the meetings held in Greensboro, Lumberton, New Bern, Rocky Mount, Asheville, Hickory, Gastonia, and Winston-Salem.

By 1970 the idea had spread abroad the state that Woman's Missionary Union had a specific task to perform in relation to the newer concept which had evolved that Woman's Missionary Union was one unit — one church program — of a total of five correlated and coordinated programs of the church, and that its task in complementing the church programs (Brotherhood, Sunday School, Church Training and Music) was: to teach missions; to engage in mission action; to support world missions through praying and giving; to provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

Preceding all of this was the planning and cooperative effort of state and national leaders. Sara Ann Hobbs, reporting to the Executive Board, said,

The State WMU Executive Secretaries met in Nashville, December 8-12, 1969, at the same time the state professional leadership from all

Church Program organizations were there. This was probably the most significant meeting that I have attended since I became a part of a WMU staff. Problems were aired fully and decisions reached that will affect WMU in years to come. There was unanimity of spirit among the executive secretaries that was encouraging. This in no way stifled discussion and even disagreement, but there was concurrence on major issues.

Mission Action Workshops

Even during Mrs. Parker's presidency, one of the main thrusts of emphasis was on mission action, that organized effort of a church to minister to persons of special needs or circumstances. Perhaps because of such an inclusive involvement, or rather an inclusive ministry of mission action, more time was demanded than the task of teaching missions and supporting missions through praying and giving.

In 1969, State Mission Action Workshop was held at Mundo Vista in September with 204 attending and 169 registrations returned because of limited seating capacity. The late Betty Jo Corum from the Birmingham staff, and Rebecca Martin, Ministries Director from Huntsville, Alabama, were guest program personnel.

Then in 1970 a Mission Action Workshop was held at Friendly Avenue Church in Greensboro with approximately 280 participants. There were five specialized conferences: Prisoner Rehabilitation, Internationals, Sick and Aging, Combatting Moral Problems, Economically Disadvantaged. One to three specialists were enlisted to assist in each of these conferences making eleven specialists plus the state WMU staff and WMS approved workers leading or helping in this Mission Action Workshop.

Re-Cast of Group Grading Plan

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina accepted gladly the group grading plan for making a uniform church practice for all of its members. This change brought about new age-level organization names and periodicals. The age level plan was composed of four divisions:

Adult — including Baptist Women (30-up) and Baptist Young Women (18-29)

Youth Division — Acteens (12-17)

Children's Division — Girls in Action (6-11)

Pre-School Division — Mission Friends (birth through 5)

Included in this age-level division was the plan which was executed in 1970-71 to transfer all six through eight-year-old boys previously in Sunbeam Band to the Brotherhood Children's Division in the Crusader Royal Ambassador Organization.

New WMU Periodicals

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union saw the wisdom of and promoted the new periodicals produced by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC:

Dimension for WMU Officers.

Contempo for Baptist Young Women leaders and members.

Royal Service (Not new) for Baptist Women Leaders and members.

Accent Leader edition for Acteens.

Accent for Acteen members.

Discovery for Girls in Action members.

Aware for Girls in Action leaders.

Start for Mission Friends leaders.

Individual Achievement Plan

Individual Achievement plans were redesigned to begin with the 1970's for Acteens and Girls in Action. These new achievement plans replaced the Forward Steps and YWA Citation.

Value of a Church Council

The new concept is for Woman's Missionary Union to work diligently to help the church reach its goals which really indicate what the church wishes to accomplish. A church with its various programs working together in a council plans the goals and ways of reaching these goals. The Council is absolutely necessary to effective church planning. It is the means of coordinating the work of the various church programs into one whole program of the church. The book *Church Program Guidebook*, 1969-70, was a very effective tool for informing the church council of its privileges and responsibilities.

Additional Changes in North Carolina

In addition to general changes initiated by Southern Baptist WMU affecting all the states, North Carolina experienced other changes. Based upon needs in the state, the Executive Board voted four specific changes: (1) A total revision of By-laws; (2) A reduction from four to three meetings of the Executive Board (in order to give the working woman an opportunity to serve); (3) Approved workers to help with Leadership Training; (4) Officer and Committee Guidelines.

Revision of By-laws

Newer concepts and a recasting of the group-grading plan called for other changes. From time to time during the transition years it was necessary for revisions to be approved by the Executive Board and adopted by the representatives of the churches meeting in annual session.

For example, in 1958 (Article X), the WMU By-laws called for an Executive Board with the state president as chairman, to be composed of the officers; director of mission study, prayer, community missions, stewardship; Chairman of WMS, YWA, GA, and Sunbeam Band promotion committees; and 12 members at large, at least one from each of the regions.

The same year the Executive Board By-laws were changed authorizing an Executive Committee to be composed of the president as chairman, with the vice-presidents, recording secretary, and five other members elected by the Executive Board.

The By-laws of Woman's Missionary Union now provide for an Executive Board to be composed of the officers of Woman's Missionary Union, chairmen of the age-level promotion committees, chairman of the WMU camp committee, and 15 members-at-large, with at least one and not more than two from each of the regions. The president should serve as chairman, and the professional leadership should serve without vote.

The Executive Board By-laws calls for these committees to be appointed at the first meeting following the annual session: Finance, Personnel, Policy, and such other committees as the work demanded. The chairmen of each of these committees to be named by the president. Also, four age-level committees: Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action and Mission Friends, and an annual session program committee of which the president should serve as chairman.

In addition to the revision of the By-laws, supplementary documents of "special rules" were also adopted. These included: (1) gifts which would be made to Margaret Fund students, native North Carolina missionaries upon appointment, and Christmas gifts, etc.; (2) sharing the mailing lists; (3) use of Tar Heel Lodge; and (4) approved workers.

Approved Workers

Because of periodic need for assistance in leadership training and promotion of WMU work in the state, Woman's Missionary Union employs one worker for each age-level. These workers are paid on a day-by-day or weekly basis, plus travel, with the host church providing room and meals.

Approved workers are selected by the Personnel Committee in consultation with the president, Executive Secretary and age-level directors, and approved by the Executive Board in the January meeting.

These approved workers are used to assist with leadership training, and the promotion of WMU work in the state whenever and wherever there is a need. These approved workers are encouraged to attend the age-level committee meetings with the privilege of discussion and vote and also to attend the Executive Board meetings (without vote).

In order to keep them abreast of changes and to attain fresh information, Woman's Missionary Union expects and pays the expenses of these workers to attend WMU Week at Ridgecrest.

Special Guidelines for Board Members

To assure effectiveness of Woman's Missionary Union's being a program of a church, North Carolina leadership has been made aware of their responsibilities and tasks. All of the officers are given *Officers Guidelines* which spells out the responsibility of each officer, and the committees are given *Guidelines for Committees* which outlines in detail the work of each committee. Thus no leadership responsibility can be shirked for want of information concerning the duties or the tasks for which leaders were elected.

“Living the Spirit of Christ”

October, 1969, began a four-year emphasis on the general theme, “Living the Spirit of Christ.” Southern Baptist WMU personnel worked with the personnel of the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission and other agencies in correlating plans for assisting local churches in implementing the denomination’s emphasis.

Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina has kept the four-year emphasis alive through its plans and activities and through the selection of her own particular Annual Session’s themes which have been:

“His Spirit is Working.”	1969
“Free Indeed.”	1970
“Openly Proclaim.”	1971
“Expectancy and Creativity.”	1972

“Shaping the 70’s”

Woman’s Missionary Union cooperated with the Baptist State Convention in “Shaping the 70’s” as a way of promoting the SBC theme, “Living the Spirit of Christ.”

According to Sara Ann Hobbs’ report on April, 1970,

January 19th marked the beginning of the most intensive leadership training effort North Carolina Baptists have ever promoted. The three ‘Shaping the 70’s’ conferences — were held at Goldsboro, Greensboro and Asheville during the week of January 19-23, 1970.

The seven-hour WMU conference was led by Margaret Bruce, and Evelyn Tully of the Birmingham staff. Representatives from 65 of the 80 associations were present and all of the WMU professional staff attended.

The second stage of the leadership training program was an associational “Shaping the 70’s” clinic in each association. Interest was high and the attendance good. Two associations, the Polk and the Tar River, had 100 percent of their churches represented in at least one conference at their associational clinic.

The third stage of the leadership training program was a series of eight area meetings. These were conducted in the western part of the state from March 30-April 3 and in the eastern part of the state from April 20-April 24. The attendance at these conferences was somewhat disappointing. However, approximately 400 women did receive this program.

The last stage of the leadership training program was the spring associational meetings on the theme, “WMU ‘70.” State WMU representatives were sent to these associational meetings to interpret ‘70’s plans.

It is estimated that about 11,000 WMU leaders and members attended some of these conferences and received information on the new plans for the ‘70’s.

Thus, these recorded changes, plus others which space does not allow, are expressions of ways Woman’s Missionary Union is assuming her role as a program of a church through “cooperative planning and correlated endeavor.”

Chapter V

Training Children for Worldwide Service

“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.” Psalm 145:4

SINCE July 1, 1897, when the first “Children’s Corner” appeared in the *Biblical Recorder*, Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina has sought definitely to educate, tenderly guide, and earnestly inspire her youth personally to become involved in the missionary program of the local church and denomination. Her parental spirit hovers over every age-level division of youth, and she has coveted for each individual of these divisions an enduring love for missions and an active involvement in winning the world to Christ. Thus, Woman’s Missionary Union has not only held as a goal the enlistment of the most dedicated leaders for her youth but also encouraged the use of the most excellent materials.

Through the years Woman’s Missionary Union, SBC, has enlisted for writing materials dedicated youth-lovers with writing ability to prepare the materials to be used in their missionary organizations. North Carolina has made a definite contribution to these materials as leaders of children and young people have been asked to prepare programs and activities for special organizations. The professional leadership of North Carolina also has made very noted contributions to various missionary periodicals.

Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina has eagerly welcomed, adopted or adapted Southern Baptist WMU plans and suggestions for the training of youth. She has made materials and methods available and held high the need for leaders to know the development of children at different age levels. Woman’s Missionary Union has given energy and encouragement to youth leaders. Emphasis has been placed on training the elected leadership in the local churches as well as on the associational and state

level. "When You Elect Them, Train Them!" has been the practice. Since childrens' attitudes toward church and others are colored by the attitudes of the adults who work with them, state leaders diligently promoted ways of developing quality leadership which would expect quality work from boys and girls.

Reviewing Councils for Advancement of GA's and RA's

By 1952, Reviewing Councils were promoted to help ensure the quality of work done by the GA's and RA's. Dedicated, trained leadership encouraged and challenged young people in the local churches to study and advance in knowledge. The purpose of the council was to help boys and girls do a more thorough preparation for passing Forward Steps or Ranking System.

The council was to be composed of at least three missions-minded adults who were interested in the work boys and girls would do and who would ensure the quality of work done in these areas. Hopefully, this would help the young people develop more pride in their organization and develop a closer relationship between counselors and members of RA's and GA's.

The plan was to set up regular times for examination of the boys and girls — monthly or quarterly — subject to call whenever the need occurred. The plan proved a blessing to Reviewing Council members as they became better informed about the work the boys and girls were involved in and became their close friends.

Although many local WMU organizations were slow in setting up reviewing councils, there was a great surge in the number of boys and girls passing Forward Steps and Ranking System. The quality of work also improved. During 1957, 11,524 girls were reported as presently working on Forward Steps. Four thousand, seven hundred fourteen of those advanced one step during the year. Counselors and directors were urged by Miss Robinson to hold high standards for the passing of each step and to urge Reviewing Councils to be very strick about accepting work on the highest steps, to guide the girls into doing their best work, adding that inferior work had been and would be returned.

The grading of all advanced Forward Step materials was done by the State Youth Director. Long hours of tedious reading and grading were required, and time came when it was felt that perhaps some of these hours would better be spent on the field or in planning conferences. By 1960, the grading of advanced materials had been transferred from the state office to the local Reviewing Councils.

Ruby Anniversary of Girls Auxiliary

In anticipation of the Ruby Anniversary of Girls Auxiliary (1952-1953), the "Four Goals for Forty" were faithfully promoted and observed:

- Leadership training
- Organizing new Girls' Auxiliaries
- Using the G.A. Magazine
- Reaching the Standard of Excellence

During this year 512 new organizations were born. In addition, there was an increase of 875 mission study classes with 9,818 books read. And while there were numerical increases in every goal, the spiritual motivation furnished the thousands of girls who worked for more efficient achievement never can be known.

Young People's Secretary

When Marie Epley became Young People's Secretary in January, 1952, she began to build upon a strong foundation laid by Hilda Mayo, who resigned on December 31, 1951. This foundation, of course, had been built on the foundation of other leaders. However, it was Miss Mayo who had inaugurated GA state camps and YWA weekend camps. She had also placed emphasis on improving the work quality of Forward Steps by encouraging the selection of Reviewing Councils.

Miss Epley began immediately to inspire local organizations to select the most consecrated and missions-orientated women of the missionary society for counselors of young people's organizations. She also sought to inform and encourage mother organizations to understand and carry through on the real meaning of fostering young people's organizations. For more than three years she worked on enlistment and stewardship. She placed special emphasis on the importance of recognizing the work of the young people and of involving them through annual coronation and recognition services, observance of Focus Weeks, and Church Night of Stewardship. Miss Epley in her last year of reporting, noted that 2,290 stewardship classes had been held, 147 organizations had participated in a week of stewardship emphasis and 872 in the Church Night of Stewardship. These resulted in 4,410 new tithers, bringing the total reporting to over fourteen thousand, with 31,813 young people contributing regularly through the Cooperative Program in their local churches.

Her work extended to the college campuses, and by 1954 she reported 10 Ann Hasseltine Young Women's Auxiliaries on college campuses enrolling 886 girls as well as 40 nursing students of N.C. Baptist Hospital enrolled in Grace McBride Auxiliaries.

Janet Wilson succeeded Miss Epley as Young People's Secretary A graduate of Carver School (then WMU Training School), Miss Wilson became a part of North Carolina's Woman's Missionary Union in June, 1952, when she was elected also as field representative to share the load carried by Mrs. John Wacaster, field representative since 1945.

During Miss Wilson's term of five and one-half years with North Carolina WMU, youth organizations grew in an astounding manner. Perhaps if one concern was greater than another, it was that of training the leadership which led the local organizations. These opportunities she enthusiastically promoted.

In order to reach the young people she worked untiringly in summer camps, expanding the program from year to year, as more and more girls clamored for the opportunity to attend camp. Her personality drew girls of YWA and GA age. They loved her for herself, and they loved her because

of her dedication and ability to make them want to become involved in the Lord's work. She had the capacity to stimulate renewed interest in the Forward Step work of Girls Auxiliary. She promoted state YWA House Parties with great enthusiasm. These grew from year to year until the record-breaking one in Greensboro (1957) where more than 1,000 young women attended. A report of this meeting in *Charity and Children* spoke of the creditable job in detail planning, and her immense popularity depicted by the following statement: "Few people throughout the state are as popular with young people as is Miss Wilson."

Miss Wilson was fun to be around and great fun as a traveling companion. She had the unusual capacity to drive straight down the road while at the same time turning to look at her back-seat passengers while relating some exciting experience. And whenever any item was needed or discussed en route she would laughingly say, "Just look in the back seat and you'll find it; that's my filing system, you know!" And it could be found! She went so many places so fast she *had* to carry her files with her.

At the time of her resignation to do graduate work at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Miriam Robinson, then executive secretary said, "I feel as if my right arm is gone." In further appreciation in the *Biblical Recorder*, Miss Robinson said, "She leaves only at the Lord's leading. She does not know what lies beyond graduate study. But this one step God has made clear. And in faith she will take this forward step. . . . Missionaries on many fields in years to come will testify to her influence in attuning their hearts to the call of God that came during GA and YWA camps in North Carolina."

The Executive Council of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina voted to divide the work of the Youth Secretary and employ a State YWA Director and State GA Director.

Some YWA "Firsts" in '55

The first YWA House Party was held in February at Campbell College under the direction of Janet Wilson. Attendance reached beyond expectation and interest was high in every aspect of missions. It was decided at this meeting to begin a state publication, *The Window-Pane*, as a part of the state council's work. This publication was to be written by and for YWA's throughout the state. It was to include an exchange of ideas and information from YWA organizations all over the state, edited, and distributed through the regular quarterly shipments from the state WMU office. Reporters from local and associational YWA's were to be elected to send materials to the editor, Hazel Wiggins, student at Meredith College, who was also elected at this meeting.

In 1958 at another House Party, Mary Maddry was chosen to be editor of *The Window-Pane* and re-elected in 1959. She was the president of Woman's Student Government Association of Duke University and active in the Temple Baptist Church of Durham, where her father was serving as pastor.

Also in 1958 June Mann of Charlotte was elected president of the Council, succeeding Gail Fulbright.

In 1960, Patricia Rogers, a freshman at Wingate College, enlistment

chairman of one of the college circles and secretary of Union Associational YWA Council, succeeded Mary Maddry and held this position through 1962 when the publication was discontinued.

The first "Grand Mission Tour" was made by YWA's in 1955 from North Carolina to Glorieta including visits to view the Spanish, Indian, and French mission work in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana.

YWA Golden Anniversary

The year 1957 marked the third annual YWA meeting and the observance of the Golden Anniversary of the organization. Mrs. J. M. Wilder of Newton, was chairman of the Anniversary Committee. She presented to the YWA Houseparty of over 1,000 girls plans for celebration throughout the year. The special activities the girls worked on included Service Projects which called for hospital garments to be used in Southern Rhodesia, Nigeria, and mission points in the West, USA. The girls also made baby clothes for use in missions and hospitals.

Specific goals included: An Anniversary Prayer Retreat; 75 per cent increase in members receiving *The Window of YWA* and reading a mission book; 15 per cent increase in Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong Offerings, in tithers, and in members; day-by-day intercessory prayer for Foreign Missions and Home Missions; a study of the WMU History; special Cooperative Program presentation; participation in the work of one mission; work to attain the rank of Honor YWA; counselor and/or Assistant Counselor to hold current card of accreditation.

In addition, the girls were reminded that the goals which were set represented the purpose for which the organization existed. The highest goal was a call of rededication to the watchword: "They that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Other goals stressed the organization of a YWA Council in every association; attendance of at least one girl from every church in North Carolina to YWA week at Ridgecrest, and an interest in World Mission tours for YWA's. Goals were also set for service projects, enlistment, study and reading, sharing possessions, and soul-winning.

The Anniversary Year was featured at the annual state meeting in Charlotte, March 12. Miss Wilson presided over a dramatic presentation of the pageant which she wrote using colorful costumes, testimonies, special music and historical facts which outlined the 50 eventful growth years of YWA.

Miss Wilson also called attention to the unique plan of having first cousins serving as pages for this particular session: Velma McGee of Winston-Salem, Queen Regent, daughter of the state president, Mrs. W. K. McGee, and Jane Lawrence, daughter of Mrs. McGee's sister, Mrs. Tom Lawrence, pastor's wife.

All during the year Miss Wilson continued to remind youth leaders through the bulletin prepared for them that "Many golden opportunities await those who lead the Young People of our state."

Another significant happening during this year was saying goodbye to the *Standard of Excellence* as it related to young Woman's Auxiliary and exploring the *Aims for Advancement* which replaced it.

Young Woman's Auxiliary Stands Alone

Sara Ann Hobbs became the first director of YWA work of North Carolina WMU on March 6, 1958. A native of Alabama, she had graduated from Judson College and Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, Kentucky, and had served for one and a half years as educational secretary of the First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. For the two years just prior to her coming, she served as youth secretary for Woman's Missionary Union of Arkansas. She arrived in North Carolina in time to begin the breathless tour of associational meetings. Young, attractive, vivacious, dedicated, she quickly gained young women's loyalty to herself and the work she promoted.

Miss Hobbs began immediately to strengthen the program of YWA, the Ann Hasseltine and Grace McBride YWA's, counselors, associational and regional YWA directors. This required a great deal of planning and constant promotion on the field and through letter-writing, preparation for the *Quarterly Bulletin* (mail-out from WMU office) and the *Biblical Recorder*.

Honor Citation

Miss Hobbs, YWA Director, initiated in 1958 and introduced to North Carolina additional requirements beyond that already offered to receive "Citation." The qualifications were that each girl: (1) receive a card of accreditation for completion of leadership course for GA or Sunbeam Band; and (2) serve as counselor or assistant counselor for one year in the organization for which she held the card of accreditation. Requirement One must be completed before beginning work on Requirement Two.

These additional opportunities proved a challenge to many ambitious, hungry minds, and the response was good. The first three girls awarded the new Honor Citation were: Phyllis Austin, Johnston Association; Cornelia Sumner and Peggy Babb Vaughan, both of the West Chowan Association.

It was not until the Spring, 1960, that Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, provided for the YWA Honor Citation.

In June also, 240 girls attended the YWA Conference at Ridgecrest. During the summer, many girls attended associational camps, and a small number attended World Missions Week at North Carolina Baptist Assembly (Caswell).

During the year the State YWA Council officers met in Raleigh when they revised the suggested by-laws for presentation at the houseparties, made plans for those houseparties, and nominated state officers for the next year.

Miss Hobbs urged the leaders to provide opportunities and participation in community missions, prayer and sharing of possessions. She diligently promoted missionary reading and study through mission study classes and

through the organization and participation in YWA Book Clubs. She faithfully promoted giving through the Cooperative Program and "Church Night of Stewardship."

Ann Hasseltine/Grace McBride YWA's

Visiting college campuses and hospital nursing schools over the state required time and energy. However, both Miss Wilson and Miss Hobbs felt the need of keeping these away-from-home students active in a missions organization and attached to the community church. In particular, both carried a burden concerning the need for nurses on the foreign fields. Thus the organization of an Ann Hasseltine YWA at Duke Hospital was a real victory.

A first for Ann Hasseltine/Grace McBride members (1961)

Conferences were planned for members only of Grace McBride and Ann Hasseltine YWA's. These conferences were held in the Jack Tar Hotel in Durham. They included college students, student nurses, graduate nurses, and college and YWA counselors. The program featured nurses, doctors and education missionaries under appointment of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Personnel from the Foreign Mission Board and State WMU led group discussions in an effort to help each girl in attendance to properly relate herself to the missionary cause by becoming a missionary or a supporter through giving and praying. Seventy-five girls representing nineteen colleges and nursing schools attended these conferences.

However, at the June, 1962 meeting of the Executive Board, the YWA Committee recommended to discontinue a special conference for nurses and to cooperate with the Christian Student Union (an organization with a broader concept of ministry than just missions) in planning the annual student conference. Miss Hobbs consented to work with this plan with the hope of meeting a broader concept of ministering to students other than YWA. Miss Hobbs' specific responsibility then would be to assist with plans for the missions programs since the programs of these conferences included more than missions. Following this decision YWA Conferences for college YWA presidents were held at the annual BSU leadership training Conference.

YWA Mission Tours

Two mission tours were planned for YWA during the months of July and August, 1962: Glorieta, New Mexico, and Beirut, Lebanon. Mrs. A. L. Parker chaperoned a group of North Carolina girls who joined with a group of Tennessee YWA's on a bus trip to Glorieta and to mission points which included work among the French, Spanish, and Indians.

Miss Hobbs directed another group of YWA's on a missions tour to Lebanon to attend Baptist World Youth Conference. Included in this tour were: England, France, Greece, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Italy and Spain.

YWA Houseparties

The annual state houseparties initiated in 1955 by Miss Wilson continued to bring the girls over the state together for study, inspiration, fun, and fellowship. In 1960, 600 girls attended, with 200 girls turned away from the two houseparties at Chowan and Mars Hill Colleges because of lack of space. Miss Hobbs seemed to draw the girls to herself and mission activity. For many she became their ideal "to be like." In 1961, the one party planned was cancelled on account of snow, but in 1962 the state YWA Houseparty was held in March at Campbell College with 637 high school and career YWA girls attending. Later, in 1962, when it was hard to find an adequate meeting place, houseparties changed to conferences. The attendance at the three planned conferences, meeting in different churches, was above 600.

In 1963, the state Conference attracted 575 members and leaders. The girls contributed \$225.00 to Cuban relief needs. Significant, also, was the election of Miss Sandra Parker as president of the State Council while her mother, Mrs. A. L. Parker was serving as president of Woman's Missionary Union.

Because of the favorable response to the 1963 Conference, plans were made to have three conferences in 1964 in different parts of the state. The fact that less than 100 girls registered was a real shock to Miss Hobbs, and to Woman's Missionary Union. Questionnaires were sent to associational leaders with an effort to understand this lack of interest and to determine the plan for further state meetings. The last houseparty for YWAs was held in 1965 with more than 500 girls present.

In October, 1965, \$500 was allocated from YWA Promotion fund to assist women medical personnel in attending a Medical Missions Conference in Richmond sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board.

Mission study institutes for Young Woman's Auxiliary were a "first" in 1965. Miss Hobbs diligently promoted these institutes and the girls responded well.

State YWA Conventions

The first State YWA Convention was held at Friendly Road Baptist Church, Greensboro, March 25-26, 1966. In reporting on this convention and the fellowship with 650 girls and their leaders, Miss Hobbs said: "I really think we had a spirit of unity and serious purpose that exceeded any meetings we've had since I have been working with them."

These conventions continued with great interest and enthusiasm and an attendance through the years to average about 1,000. The 1969 Convention which carried as its theme, "Mission 70" with 1,286 attending from 51 associations was significant in anticipation of predicted changes for the organization. Mecklenburg Association led with 108 in attendance, followed by Mount Zion with 97 in attendance. "ORGANIZE A YWA" was initiated at this convention. The challenge came in the form of a contest among the different associations beginning March 30 and going through

December 31. The last Convention met April 3-5, 1970, at the First Baptist Church, Hickory with the theme "Mission Now." The attendance at this particular one was smaller than the year before.

Change in Leadership

The transfer in 1966 of Sara Ann Hobbs from YWA to GA director left a vacancy which was filled immediately by Linda Warren. Miss Warren had graduated from the University of Tennessee and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She had taught school for two years, worked at a Good Will Center in Richmond and for the Virginia Baptist Sunday School Department.

One of her first appeals was to associational directors to organize more YWAs and to send more girls and directors to Glorieta and Ridgecrest. According to those reporting (941), 2,500 churches in N.C. were without a missionary organization for this important age girl.

Her promotion of the Annual YWA Conventions brought some surge of interest. To enlist and strengthen the college girl she continued the tours of the colleges, a plan for taking a missionary speaker to each college campus. In 1969, Miss Warren was fortunate to have with her one who had served as a missionary Journeyman (a college graduate employed by the Foreign Mission Board for a term of two years) in Africa to accompany her to the six Baptist college campuses. These visits proved to be interesting to the boys as well as the girls who were interested in the Christian (not just Baptist) Student Union.

In 1970, YWA was changed by BYW (Baptist Young Women) and Miss Warren became BYW director. She resigned in the spring of 1972. Miss Nancy Curtis, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, was employed to begin work as BYW director January 1, 1973.

Girls Auxiliary Stands Alone

In January, 1958, Barbara Rodman of Oklahoma was elected the first GA director. Miss Rodman, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, worked closely with GA's and their leaders. She planned and directed the Fifth Annual Queens' Court at Campbell College, including 325 Queens, Queens-with-Scepter, Queens Regent, and Queens Regent-in-Service, and counselors. The mission offering given by the girls was sent to Hazel Hurst, missionary to Honduras to help in her work. Miss Rodman also directed (her first year) four weeks of Junior Girls' Auxiliary Camps and two weeks for the Intermediates. These camps touched the lives of 930 girls and 66 staff members. In reporting on these camps, she said, "It is impossible to estimate the value of such democratic contact on the Christian level."

Miss Rodman diligently promoted the work by staying close to GA's and to their leaders. In addition to camps and emphasis on Forward Steps, she gave untiring efforts to training their leaders. In her very first report to Woman's Missionary Union she called attention to the 202 leaders who

held Cards of Accreditation, 140 more than the year before. "But it is not enough. Even with these additional ones receiving training there are still too many organizations whose leaders are untrained."

Miss Rodman moved to another state to assume another position after two and one-half years of service in North Carolina.

Willa Dean Freeman assumed the responsibility of GA Director on October 1, 1960. She was born in North Carolina but had served as GA director for the WMU of Mississippi for three years. Much of her time was claimed by promotion and direction of camp, preparation of material for the *Quarterly Bulletin* and *Biblical Recorder*, plus the writing of two courses in the Advanced Leadership Training series. She emphasized "quality" of work, new organizations, and increased subscriptions to *Tell*, the GA magazine. Subscriptions greatly increased her first year. With the change of plan of work she spent much time in grading GA Reports of Advancement — Approved, Advanced, and Honor.

G.A. Fiftieth Anniversary

Plans began in the annual conference in Charlotte, October, 1961, for the 50th Anniversary. Miss Freeman wrote, with the assistance of Miss Robinson, a pageant portraying progress of GA work from its beginning through 50 years. The pageant was presented at the 1963 Annual Session of Woman's Missionary Union.

G.A. Anniversary was also featured through North Carolina State Queen's Court at Meredith College (special for intermediates only) with 411 girls attending.

State service projects were promoted in April, May, and June of 1963. Also, State WMU assisted the Associational leadership in planning for Junior Queen's Courts in the local associations.

The climactic event of the anniversary year (1962) was the GA Convention in Memphis, Tennessee in June. The goal attendance set by Southern Baptist WMU was 10,000 with 300 girls and leaders as a goal from North Carolina. The response to this convention was so great that three conventions were planned. North Carolina had a total registration at the three conventions of 424 girls. Organizations set high goals and 142 local Girls' Auxiliaries earned recognition by attaining them.

Approximately 975 GA's attending camps and Queen's Court contributed \$500 to the new Child Care Center which the Baptist Church at Cherokee operated under State Convention sponsorship. They added to this a small amount of money left from the Memphis Convention trip.

Miss Freeman's last contribution came (before her marriage) as she planned houseparties during World Missions Week and GA Camp at Caswell, and arranged camp program materials for Velma McGee, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. K. McGee of Winston-Salem. Miss McGee was the interim GA camp director during the time following Miss Freeman's resignation before the new GA Director arrived in North Carolina. When these assignments had been finished Miss Freeman said, "I have only the State

Missions program for GA's yet to do. When it is finished I shall have completed my work as GA Director."

Nancy Bell Cousins of Richmond, Virginia was elected by the Executive Board to succeed Mrs. Hagler (Willa D. Freeman) in 1964. A graduate of Memphis State University in Tennessee, a BD graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, she had taught two years in public schools in Virginia. She came in June in time to be in camps, workshops and conferences and to work on Forward Steps applications. She praised Miss Velma McGee for her superior leadership in the GA camps that summer. She gave much time to leadership conferences and the promotion of summer camps. She greatly encouraged leaders to inspire the girls to work on Advanced Forward Steps.

As Miss Cousins made plans to move back to Richmond and resume teaching, Sara Ann Hobbs made the transition from YWA Director to GA Director July, 1966. She went immediately to Ridgecrest to learn more in detail her responsibilities as GA Director. She brought with her experience and travel, plus three weeks experience in Alaska helping in leadership conferences in half a dozen cities. She was impressed with the family spirit among Christians there which the states seem to miss. She made many slides and shared them with GAs and other groups.

By 1967 Miss Hobbs was involved with the Camp Committee in selecting a campsite. Her knowledge of the need for a camp and the prospect of realizing this need made her an exciting promoter. During the summer of 1967, 1,600 girls attended camp at Fruitland, many making decisions to accept Christ or to choose a Christian vocation. The offering taken during camps at Fruitland was \$2,060 (including the staff) — generous because of the girls' excitement over the prospect of having their own camp.

In addition to conferences, general promotion, camps, Miss Hobbs prepared material for *Tar Heel Talk*, approved grading guides for Queen-with-Scepter, Queen Regent, and Queen Regent-in-Service steps, revised material on instructions for the Reviewing Council, and wrote for *Tell* magazine over a period of several months.

She seemed to thrive on the excitement and variety of GA work — took part in the Church Program Conferences, kept close to GA associational directors, interpreting new WMU plans.

The 1968 World Missions week brought to North Carolina Baptist Assembly 600 GAs. The camping season this year reached 1,694 girls in eight weeks — 41 accepted Christ and 95 made a commitment to mission service. In her last report, July-September, 1968 she said:

"This is the peak season for Forward Steps applications. It is good to know that this many Intermediate GAs are interested in the Forward Steps and, in the *very routine* process of filling out certificates. I try to remember that each one represents an individual who is striving to learn more about missions and to better equip herself to serve."

Changes in GA Work

New Plan for Grading Forward Steps

More responsibility came to the local Reviewing Councils, (effective January, 1968) as they assumed the responsibility for the final approval of *all* Forward Steps. Grading guides were furnished (upon request) by the State WMU Office for use in grading Queen-with-a-Scepter, Queen Regent, and Queen Regent-in-Service steps. The volume grew to as many as 100 applications in a day — more than could be handled at the office. Sara Ann Hobbs, then GA Director, urged the need for more and better trained Reviewing Councils — *after* they had been very carefully chosen (*Tar Heel Talk*, Jan. '68). *Queen's Camp*

The January, 1969, *Tar Heel Talk* carried exciting new plans for Intermediate Queens who had passed the Queen step. These girls were eligible to attend a whole week of camp — QUEENS CAMP — with a very special format of activities for this very select group. Service projects, dramatic presentations, and missionary speakers were added to plenty of food and fun.

Change in Directors

When Miss Robinson, executive secretary, resigned, Miss Hobbs was elected to succeed her. It was June, 1969, before the new GA Director, Miss Jolene Ivey, was secured.

Miss Ivey, a graduate of Livingston State College of Alabama, with a degree in elementary education and four years of teaching experience in Mobile, entered Southwestern Seminary from which she received her master of religious education degree in 1968. She had worked four summers on the staff of Girls' Auxiliary Camp of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union, serving two years as unit leader and two years as assistant director.

Miss Ivey arrived in North Carolina to begin her work just in time to place her furniture, unpacked in her apartment, and leave for Camp Mundo Vista where she spent six weeks directing GA camps. Then followed mission action workshops, teaching leadership courses, filling out certificates, writing material for associational bulletin and *Tar Heel Talk*, and enlisting missionaries for the coming camp year. "Wonderful, challenging, happy" described her attitude as she went about her work. Then, as now, one of her duties was directing staff training for GA Camps. In 1970 Miss Ivey's title changed to Acteens Director. Her interest and joy of working with girls has intensified and her vision has grown. Her files show many letters of personal appreciation for her and for Mundo Vista through the program of activities. A capable director and friend, the girls often lovingly refer to her as "Chief."

Acteens

In 1971 associational acteens officers had their first leadership training retreat — BLAST

B-Blowing your mind without drugs
L-Lounging at the Pool
A-Acquiring Know-how
S-Sharing Ideas
T-Training

Miss Ivey initiated Mission Action Teams (MAT) made up of girls from church Acteens organizations to participate in state directed mission action projects. These teams of ten rendered a special service at Cherokee and at Gastonia. The purpose of these teams was to demonstrate to associations and local organizations how to engage in "SMAY" — Summer Missions Activities for Youth.

From many applications these ten girls were selected by the state Acteens Promotion Committee, and the work was supported by funds from the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering.

At Cherokee, 1971, they taught Vacation Bible School in an Indian church at night, visited different churches on Sunday. In the mornings they helped at the Day Care Bible Center at the First Baptist Church and visited in the afternoons — shut-ins — to talk, sing, etc.

In Gastonia, 1972, their activities centered around the associational mission center: teaching VBS in the mornings, painting the center in the afternoons, and visiting different churches on Wednesday night.

Acteens' Day at Meredith College was initiated in 1971. The original purpose was fellowship and information. The excitement of being on a Christian college campus, meeting college students plus the presence of missionaries was the beginning of a very special day which the college itself is interested in promoting through future years.

The Order of Royal Ambassadors

North Carolina can rightfully boast of the very first Royal Ambassador chapter in the Southern Baptist Convention. Named after missionary Carey Newton, this chapter was organized in the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, N.C. Growth of Royal Ambassador work had grown from this first organization in 1908 to 1780 chapters with a membership of approximately 13,000 boys by 1956, their last year of full sponsorship by WMU.

The Reverend B. W. Jackson was elected in 1946 to become the first and only full-time Royal Ambassador secretary of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. He worked faithfully with the associations and with the local churches in organizing RA chapters. He strongly emphasized the need of the counselors to study the materials available for enlisting and training the boys. He insisted that they subscribe to *Ambassador Life* and read it faithfully to learn how better to lead boys to Christ's way of life. He challenged them to a program of activities set forth in the *Guide for Royal Ambassador Counsellors*. He sought also to convince the churches that the R.A. chapter was a part of the church activity and that its place and time of meeting should be given special attention.

He promoted and planned summer camps and divisional conclaves, encouraged mission study classes, and stressed special seasons of prayer

programs and giving to home, foreign, state and Heck-Jones Memorial Offerings. He planned and promoted a very successful State Royal Ambassador Congress which first met in the First Baptist Church in Greensboro, April, 1952. More than 900 boys attended this congress. The next year approximately 800 boys and counselors attended a convention-wide Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Jackson promoted and participated in special training for R.A. Counselors and encouraged the setting up of Reviewing Councils in the local churches with the goal of challenging the boys to study more thoroughly to keep the quality of work in the Ranking System honorable.

At the Annual Session of Woman's Missionary Union meeting in Winston-Salem, 1956, Mr. Jackson, said,

In a way, this is the last Royal Ambassador report of an era, as this is the last report with Royal Ambassador work under Woman's Missionary Union's full responsibility. I make this report with gratitude to Woman's Missionary Union for its promotion of Royal Ambassador work through these years.

He continued to express appreciation for the vision, support, patience and leadership of WMU. On October 1, 1957, full sponsorship of Royal Ambassador work was transferred to the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

In preparation for that transfer, as early as November, 1954, Mrs. A. L. Parker was named chairman of the committee to work out plans for the future promotion of Royal Ambassador Work. She reported to the Annual Session in March, 1955, recommending a Joint Committee for the promotion of the Order of Royal Ambassadors on the state level in North Carolina. This standing committee was composed of the president, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, director of the Brotherhood Department, and three members from each of these organizations. This committee was to appoint a Royal Ambassador Secretary (approved by the General Board of the Baptist State Convention).

In preparation for transfer in the local church, each Woman's Missionary Union was urged to make definite plans by the appointment of a functioning committee from WMU and Brotherhood, but if no Brotherhood were active, then the appointment of a church committee was recommended. The regional and associational Royal Ambassador work was to be under the direction of a similar joint committee using suggestions worked out by the state Joint Committee.

Woman's Missionary Union agreed to finance Royal Ambassador promotion until January 1, 1956; after this date, the Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union were to share equally in providing funds for RA work until the ultimate transfer to Brotherhood sponsorship should be completed.

Sunbeam Band Work

Since 1924, when the first full-time young people's secretary was elected, Sunbeam Band work had been a part of her supervision, promotion

and encouragement. This work grew alongside other organizations until the need was felt for more help in this area. Beverly Neilson was elected in June, 1954 to give special strength and encouragement to the leadership and organization of more Sunbeam Bands. Her first title was "Sunbeam Band Worker and Field Representative"; later, "Chairman of Division of Sunbeam Bands and Field Representative." Then in 1957 she became "Sunbeam Band Director," in which capacity she served until her resignation, effective June 1, 1959. Her resignation was a great blow to the state, for she had endeared herself to young people and adults all over the state. However, the time had come when she desired to give herself in direct contact with children and to put into practice what she had been urging hundreds of leaders to do.

Miss Neilson believed strongly in the need for dedicated leadership among children, emphasizing the danger of "lip-service Christianity" to children. She promoted Sunbeam Band nurseries, reminding the leaders that they were not "baby-sitters." The younger the children, the greater the need for dedicated leaders was her contention because the very young become aware of God and form their concepts of God from the adults who care for them. She believed that only dedicated leaders could lead the children in experiences of praying and sharing of money for home, foreign, and state missions. She thought of community missions as a "key" to expressing missionary education.

Miss Neilson began Sunbeam Camps in North Carolina, first a state camp in 1956 near Greensboro and two the following year in Umstead State Park. Also, that same year, Miss Neilson, undergirded by the State WMU, made strong efforts to enlist women as Sunbeam Baby Visitors and to give special training to all who would volunteer for this service. Associational leaders were encouraged to challenge the local churches to plan Sunbeam Band day camps during Sunbeam Band Focus Week.

The first summer and fall workshops for Sunbeam Band leaders were also held in 1956. During that summer, as a part of leadership training at Fruitland and North Carolina Baptist Assembly, associational leaders were invited to observe the State Sunbeam Band Chairman leading a group of Sunbeams in various activities. The fall workshops were held in the associations under the leadership of the associational leadership, with help from Miss Neilson when needed.

The Executive Board voted in 1961 to discontinue state Sunbeam Band camps and to concentrate on associational and church day-camps for eight-year-olds.

In her last report (1959) Miss Neilson left the challenge of the supreme value of the child in calling upon the home, church and school to provide for his physical and spiritual needs. "More and more children are coming to us for missionary training. Let us determine that they shall have the very best in their leaders, in equipment, in materials, in methods; but most of all that they shall receive the eternal truths of Bible Study, Stewardship, Prayer, Community Missions and Mission Study at their age level."

Miss Neilson accepted changes in methods but insisted that the eternal truths remain.

In 1958 there were 158 Sunbeam Band leaders who took the Beginner or Primary Sunbeam Band leadership courses, which brought the total number of Sunbeam Band leaders with Cards of Accreditation to more than 300. Also, Sunbeam Bands had increased from 1,627 in 1957 to 1,908 in 1958. By 1960 reports showed a decided decrease in the number of ungraded Sunbeam Bands. This was encouraging, as better missionary education can be carried on through the graded Beginner and Primary Band. Nursery Sunbeam Bands were also on the decline. There were in 1959, 2,076 Sunbeam Bands, 10 honor Sunbeam Bands and 101 Approved; by 1961 there were 57 honor and 184 approved Sunbeam Bands.

Several months after Miss Neilson left, Delois Hamrick of Caroleen, N.C. became State Sunbeam Band Director in June, 1960. She came well prepared and she continued to promote new organizations and special leadership training. However, her term of service was only two and one-half years because of her marriage to Marvin Bass.

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Sunbeam Band was featured at the State WMU Annual Session in Winston-Salem 1961 through the presentation of "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Miss Hamrick did an outstanding work in presenting and illustrating this narrative history of the development of the Sunbeam Band.

In connection with this anniversary celebration, WMU of N.C. allocated \$750 to be sent to the George B. Taylor Orphanage in Rome, Italy, named after this great man of vision, a Virginian, who was largely responsible for the birth of Sunbeam Bands.

Mrs. Louise Burgess, a native of Elizabeth City and a graduate of Meredith College and Southeastern Seminary, with ten years of teaching experience in the elementary grades and Minister of Education, left South Carolina to become N.C. Sunbeam Band Director in January, 1963. She gave much time in teaching Leadership Courses, participating in Mission Study institutes, and in the promotion of day camps for boys and girls. She felt a special need for helping leaders understand the changing use of prepared materials, namely the "activity time" preceding "group-time." In 1965 she wrote the State Mission program for Primary Sunbeam Bands. She resigned January, 1966. However, she did help with Sunbeam Band plans for World Missions Week at Caswell that summer.

Bernice Popham, a native of Kentucky and a graduate of Georgetown College and Carver School of Missions became Sunbeam Band Director in July, 1966. She had served five years as Director of the House of Happiness, a Baptist Good Will Center of Richmond, Virginia and five years as director of the Baptist Good Will Center in Raleigh. In addition, she had worked with children in Sunday School and Training Union departments. Her title was changed in 1970 to Girls in Action/Mission Friends Director."

In her report of June, 1967, Miss Popham said, "And now I am a year old. Thank you for a very rewarding and enjoyable year. I am looking forward to many more."

Her years were filled with the teaching of leadership courses in the different associations and leading conferences for Sunbeam Band leaders. She worked closely with the Brotherhood in preparation for the transfer (in cooperation with WMU, SBC) of six-to-eight-year-old boys to the Brotherhood Department in October, 1970. She challenged the men of the churches to work with Sunbeams in 1969 in order that they might better work with the younger boys after the transfer was made. In this connection, she also directed in the spring of 1971, a Girls in Action/Royal Ambassador Day Camp Workshop at Mundo Vista. Much of her time was also spent in learning the new plans of Woman's Missionary Union and participation in Interpretation Meetings to explain the new plans that would take effect in 1970.

Her theory in working with leaders was to "bring out" the shy ones, encourage the lazy ones to "do their share," guide the "eager beavers" so that the shy and lazy children would have a chance to participate. She strongly stressed "guide but do not drive." She also challenged leaders to create an atmosphere whereby boys and girls could enjoy and appreciate God's handiwork.

Others recognized her talents, however, and she left North Carolina to become executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union for the State of California, September, 1972.

Miss Pat Ritchie was employed in November, 1972 to begin work as GA/Mission Friends Director, 1973.

Camps for Young People

By 1927 Royal Ambassador and Girls Auxiliary associational camps were growing in an exciting manner, with mission study as the main emphasis.

During the 1930's, GA House Parties and GA camps were held on college campuses over the state. A strong program continued during the 1940's. By 1953 interest was so high and state camps so well attended that something had to be done to restrict the attendance. In October, before the next summer, it was necessary to inform the girls that they would be required to pass one Forward Step during the year to be eligible to attend the State Girls' Auxiliary camp and the junior boys would be required to pass a rank to be eligible to attend the state Royal Ambassador Camp.

The girls in particular took their camping eligibility seriously and by the summer of 1958 it was necessary to have four weeks of Junior Girls' Auxiliary camps and two weeks for Intermediates. Within a six-month period 176 sets of forward steps work were received and graded. Ninety-nine girls received recognition for Queen-with-Scepter, and 50 achieved Queen Regent; 15 Queen Regent-in-Service.

By 1959 it was necessary to limit the attendance at GA Camps to 200 per week.

In 1960 plans were made for seven weeks of camp (5 junior) with the strict requirement that campers pass one step during the year to be eligible.

When in 1967, 1,600 applications made it necessary to plan for eight weeks for GA's alone, it was time to consider one centrally located facility adequate for the number of girls waiting to attend with the possibilities of a more up-to-date philosophy of church camping.

“Mundo Vista” was the answer!

Chapter VI

Adorning the Doctrine of Service

“All will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” — Phil. 2:11 (TEV)

EVERY North Carolina president who has served the Union has left, perhaps in different words, the same challenge Miss Heck wrote from her hospital bed: “Continue to adorn the doctrine of service.” This doctrine demands action — “to the glory of God.” To such commitment lies the effectiveness of Woman’s Missionary Union’s being a program of a church.

Adorning the Doctrine of Service Now

In Mrs. Benfield’s last presidential message (1971) she said, “Now it’s my day, my opportunity, my privilege to stand for something, and it is your day! We have a wonderful heritage or we might not be here. What we do NOW will make a difference in the world of tomorrow. God needs women with strong religious faith.”

The “NOW” is the connecting link between the past and the future. What is being done today depends heavily upon the quality of missionary endeavor of the past, especially the past labors of the leadership and members of Woman’s Missionary Union.

The “NOW” shows a fine working relationship between Woman’s Missionary Union and the Baptist State Convention in working out and promoting correlated church programs.

The “NOW” includes appreciation for past leadership and for present leadership.



Mrs. Gilmer Cross, president 1971-1976

The "NOW" exemplifies the service of performing the basic tasks of Woman's Missionary Union of a church.

The "NOW" determines the basic challenges of the future of the "doctrine of service."

A New President in Service

Mrs. Gilmer Cross was elected in 1971 at the Annual Session meeting in Fayetteville, to succeed Mrs. Benfield. A native of Greensboro, she had served for more than eighteen years in the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro with her pastor-husband until his death in 1969. Especially active in the WMU of her church, she was likewise active in the association and state. She had served as a member-at-large of the Executive Board, state prayer director, a member of the camp committee, and as first vice-president of the Union. A dedicated Christian, already known and loved, she did indeed seem to be the right person for this important role. With insight, enthusiasm, and sincerity, she already has begun to give real meaning to the kind of service which openly proclaims that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Elected to serve with Mrs. Cross were: First Vice-President, Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath, Jr., Charlotte; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Hoyle Allred, Gastonia; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Hubert Mumford, Durham; Assistant Recording Secretary, Mrs. Claud B. Bowen, Greensboro.

In Service with the Baptist State Convention

The relationship between the Baptist State Convention and Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has been from the beginning a cooperative and happy relationship. As persons, WMU executive secretaries and the general secretaries of the Baptist State Convention have been friendly and cooperative.

Concerning such relationship, the 1972 By-laws state: "Cooperate with the total program of the Baptist State Convention as it relates to the promotion of Christian missions and with the world missions program of SBC, its institutions and agencies."

During Dr. Douglas Branch's administration (1959-1963) periodic staff meetings were held with the WMU executive-secretary participating. Then, with the coming of W. Perry Crouch in January, 1964, inter-departmental staff meetings were held to discuss ways of presenting to the local church curriculum changes that more specifically designate the function of each organization of the church, and the attempt to bring about a unity of purpose. Woman's Missionary Union has related to the Baptist State Convention in every possible way, promoting evangelism, spiritual growth, and spiritual living. The WMU participated in the Long Range Program, the Jubilee Advance Emphases, the Spiritual Life Growth Program, and "Living the Spirit of Christ."

Woman's Missionary Union as a State General Board Program

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union as a program of the State General Board is unique in that few states maintain this relationship. While maintaining auxiliary status Woman's Missionary Union cooperates voluntarily with the policies of the General Board and with the departments of the Division of Church Programs. The nature of the WMU purposes also necessitates involvement in some of the plans of the other divisions.

In its auxiliary status Woman's Missionary Union makes its own policies and plans through the WMU Executive Board which meets three times a year. The Executive Board, composed of 25 members, employs the field personnel (directors of the various age level organizations).

Sara Ann Hobbs, executive secretary, in a message to Superintendents of Missions, 1971, reiterates Woman's Missionary Auxiliary status:

"Is there any justification for the retention of auxiliary status? I think so. I mention three: (1) Historical evidence supports the fact that in each of the major denominations there has been a decline in the commitment to missions and support of missions when women's organizations have been integrated into the Convention; (2) There is still value in an organization for *women, led by women*; and (3) When women lose their direct contact with missions, mission gifts drop and the entire denominational program suffers."

In this same address Miss Hobbs expressed readiness and availability of church WMU to assist in associational missions (aside from the organized

WMU program) wherever there was a need. In addition, Woman's Missionary Union, with the Brotherhood Department, (upon advice of the associational council) is willing to help with making associational surveys in order to determine the needs of that association.

Coordination and Correlation

As far back as 1923, churches began to cry for help in how to keep the organizations from overlapping in their plans and practices. The Southern Baptist Convention appointed a committee to look into this matter. Over a period of years more committees were appointed and more intensive efforts were made to bring about this help. Of special concern was to understand Woman's Missionary Union's work in relation to the total church. It was not until during the 1960's that definite help began to materialize.

One of the first correlations to take place within the Southern Baptist Convention was when the WMU became a part of the Church Study Course. On October 1, 1961, all of the Sunday School Board's courses were unified into one system called the "Church Study Course for Teaching and Training." It was not until then that Woman's Missionary Union became a part of this study course program. Principles and methods books were listed under the Graded Series books of foreign and home missions boards. Woman's Missionary Union used the current graded series books preceding the weeks of prayer for foreign missions and home missions.

The 1952 N.C. WMU Plan of Work emphasized the study of the Baptist doctrines through cooperation with the Sunday School and Training Union departments in a correlated church study. The same year Woman's Missionary Union worked closely with the Baptist State Convention in the Nine-Year Program of Advance.

Also, in 1954, at the request of the late J. P. Morgan, Training Union Director, Woman's Missionary Union encouraged and supported the March "Faith Week," a week of special study on faith. In October, November and December of 1957, Woman's Missionary Union cooperated with the Baptist State Convention by using a booklet on the tithers "Prove Me" program for the WMU programs. This promotion of this tithers "Prove Me" program involved the YWA's and GA's as well, and the slogan, "Cooperate with God by Tithing — not just three Months — but all months." Members of Woman's Missionary Union were challenged to enlist tithers through personal contacts, telephone, and program.

In 1959 another (and a first) cooperative effort with the Baptist State Convention was made through a meeting of associational missionaries in a three-day conference in Salisbury. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint the associational missionaries with the promotional plan of the various departments, including the Woman's Missionary Union and to give them an opportunity to ask questions.

Also, during the 1950's Woman's Missionary Union and the heads of the departments of the State Missions Division began to meet to make plans to prepare the state mission program material to be used in the seasons of prayer for state missions. In reporting on some of these meetings Miss

Miriam Robinson said, "These and other similar experiences of cooperative effort greatly facilitated by bringing all of the Convention officers together in one building are proving of great value to us and will be, I believe, to the entire Convention program."

Other Cooperative Efforts

It is to the credit of our beloved Union that, like individuals who seek constantly to work within the will of God, she has continued to "seek" and has in the seeking experienced the understanding and joy of cooperative mission efforts.

Mrs. R. Knolan Benfield in her report in 1968 said, "Serving on the General Board of the State Convention, the Council of Christian Higher Education, and the Missions Committee, has made it clear to me that growth in God's Kingdom in our state will have to be a cooperative effort — more so than ever before."

Of special note in 1969, Woman's Missionary Union co-sponsored with the Division of Missions and Brotherhood Department, four World Mission Rallies: Raleigh, Morganton, Charlotte, and Greensboro. Featured speakers were Arthur Rutledge, Executive Secretary, Home Mission Board, and Baker James Cauthen, Executive Secretary, Foreign Mission Board.

In addition, Woman's Missionary Union participated in Family Life Education Clinics promoted by the Sunday School Board; Human Relations Conferences, promoted by the Department of Interracial Cooperation; the Brotherhood Convention; and Student Retreats sponsored by the Campus Ministry Department. Each year Woman's Missionary Union provides one of the staff to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute to teach Religious Education Courses for part of a week. The students at Fruitland seemed eager to learn about the program of Woman's Missionary Union.

In order to build interest and to keep the staff informed, Dr. Crouch, Baptist State Convention General-Secretary, began (in staff meetings) a plan of presenting the work of one or more divisions at each staff meeting, and hearing reports of outstanding things that have occurred in each department during the past quarter. In reporting on these staff meetings Miss Robinson said, "It is long, and in moments tiresome, but very helpful in promoting a feeling of unity of purpose and comradeship in our labors."

Leadership Appreciation

It would be impossible for Woman's Missionary Union to recognize with due appreciation the many outstanding persons who have served in various capacities of leadership. Through their personalities, talents, and dedication they have inspired, taught and encouraged other leaders from the local to stateside places of responsibility. Each served at different times under different circumstances, during prevailing trends. They worked "heartily, as unto the Lord."

However, one way Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has shown appreciation for some of these has been through the dedication of

the Annual Minute Book "to the memory of" or "in honor of" voted at the Annual Session. The past two decades include:

In 1954: To the Memory of Mrs. D. H. Craver, active in local associational places of responsibility and state Community Missions Chairman since 1947 to 1952.

In 1956: To the honor of Mrs. C. C. Hoggard, of Ahoskie, an outstanding leader in local and associational WMU work and mother of Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey, president from 1951-1956.

In Memory of Mrs. E. B. Beasley of Fountain, Superintendent of an association or division from 1926-1946 and a member of WMU Executive Committee from 1951 until her death in 1956.

In 1963: Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. J. Clyde Turner, Raleigh, seven years state president, a great Christian leader and teacher.

Macy Cox, Magnolia, leader of local Sunbeam Band for 43 consecutive years, superintendent of Eastern Association and the Wilmington Division; also state WMU third vice-president.

Mrs. C. T. Brewer, member of the North Carolina Central Committee continuing service through its name change from 1915-1943; Sunday School teacher and active in WMU of First Baptist Church, Raleigh.

In 1966: Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. H. E. Gwin of Durham, who died on February 22, 1966. A member of the Executive Board, assistant recording secretary from 1950-1953, and as recording secretary 1953-1956; directed music and served as soloist during Annual Sessions, a member of First Baptist Church, Durham.

In 1971: To the memory of Mrs. Ora Alice Alford who gave 30 years of service to WMU of North Carolina — five as a volunteer, and 25 as an employee.

In 1972: To the memory of Mrs. Foy Johnson Farmer whose "qualities so evident in the home found expanded expression as she gave herself with abandon to the interest of Woman's Missionary Union."

Other Evidences of Appreciation

It was voted at the Annual Session meeting in Winston-Salem, 1956, that \$10,000 of the 1956 Heck Jones Memorial Offering be allocated for the furnishings of the student center at the University of Havana, Cuba, and that this allocation be made in honor of Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey, then president of North Carolina WMU. Later a beautiful plaque honoring Mrs. Maddrey was prepared and shipped to Cuba.

The allocation voted from the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering honoring Mrs. Farmer has already been mentioned. (Both of these allocations were made before Heck-Jones Memorial Offering became a promotional offering for Woman's Missionary Union in 1962.)

The presidents who have followed Mrs. Maddrey and Mrs. Farmer are equally worthy of special honor and appreciation: Mesdames Velma McGee, Sara Parker, Emma Benfield, and now Bernice Cross. The foregoing chapters are monuments to their untiring dedicated service.

Through the years North Carolina women have expressed their confi-

dence in their presidents by electing them and shown their appreciation for them through loyal followership, from the local church to the associational level. This has likewise been true of the vice-presidents and others elected to assist them.

Perhaps there are some descriptive words which could apply to each one: Spiritually mature, genuine love for all people, dedicated talents, prayer-born convictions, tireless in service, fair-minded, courageous, concerned for the missionary education of young people, and more . . . Certainly these attributes enabled them to lead the women of the state to accomplish all that is recorded in these pages, and much more. And each one retired to many other opportunities of service.

Appreciation for Executive Secretaries

Worthy words of appreciation for the executive secretaries of North Carolina, as for the presidents, would require a book on each equal in length to this history.

However, words of their talents, qualifications, Christian dedication, courage, integrity, leadership ability, and many attainments have already appeared on these pages. All that this history records, PLUS many, many other accomplishments of North Carolina Baptist women and young people found in the Minute Book for each of the twenty years are evidences of the wise planning and promotion by the state executive secretaries. In addition, the living dedication of women and young people to the cause of missions right now in the local church bespeak appreciation for — even stand as a monument to:

Ruth Provence
Miriam Robinson
Sara Ann Hobbs

The State WMU Staff in Service

The employed staff of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is efficient and dedicated. They work diligently to put into motion the policies and organizational plans adopted by Woman's Missionary Union and its Executive Board. It is a staff that knows the meaning of teamwork. Together they work in the office, on the field — wherever there is need to promote the purpose and spirit of Woman's Missionary Union. They are gracious with their time and hospitable to all who come to the office to visit or to acquire information.

They are busy preparing material for publication of "Tar Heel Talk" for church WMU leaders and "Tar Heel Leader" for the associational WMU leaders. They also distribute material through a quarterly mailing to church WMU leaders. They process reports from the churches and the associations, handle routine correspondence related to Woman's Missionary Union, and provide field services to associations and churches. They plan and conduct meetings for church and associational leaders. They help in planning and conducting conferences, workshops and prayer retreats.

They keep an up-to-date mailing list of the church WMU organizations. All of these efforts are made to lead churches to fulfill their responsibility for world missions.

The total achievements of Woman's Missionary Union are realized through work done by the church, by the association, by the state WMU Executive Board, and by the state WMU employed staff.

Reference has already been made to the employed staff. The 1972 staff includes:

Sara Ann Hobbs, Executive Secretary
 Kathryn Bullard, Director, Baptist Women
 Linda Warren, Director, Baptist Young Women (resigned March 1972)
 Jolene Ivey, Director, Acteens
 Bernice Popham, Director, Girls in Action/Missions Friends (resigned Sept., 1972)
 Pina Maynard, Administrative Assistant
 Vivian Nowell, Financial Secretary
 Maxine Bumgarner, Office Secretary

The Service of Information and Interpretation

State leaders are busy securing information from many sources; studying, reading, attending meetings, listening to inspirational speakers. Associational and local WMU leaders are also seeking every opportunity to secure whatever information is available that they might inform the church members in whatever program of the church they are actively working. The aim of this service is to share information about Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention, and Woman's Missionary Union. In addition, information must be interpreted to help the whole church "Adorn the Doctrine of Service."

Associational Leadership in Service

Sara Ann Hobbs feels that the strength of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, is found in the associational leadership. As more and more responsibility has been placed upon this leadership for training the leadership in the local churches, a more thorough and challenging service has come into being.

State personnel gives time, energy, prayer, planning to the three fall leadership workshops: two at Mundo Vista, and one at Fruitland. The associational leadership which comes to one of these workshops receives adequate training for planning and training age-level leadership in the local churches. If they need help, they may invite state personnel to assist in this training.

Age-Level Directors in Service

There is a state director for each age-level organization: Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends. With the Executive Secretary supervising, these directors work with the

chairmen of corresponding age-level committees elected by the Executive Board.

These state directors are responsible for planning any state activity for their counterpart age-level organization. They assist in organizing new age-level groups and in encouraging any weak or struggling organization. These age-level directors also assist one another in their work when help is needed.

If there are any needs or any new plans in the minds of these directors, they must first present these to the age-level committee of the Executive Board. This committee serves as a sounding board to determine the feasibility of the project, and if approved, it is presented to the entire Executive Board. Reason for financial backing must also be considered.

Preparation for Performing Tasks

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Ps. 46:10)

Whatever the task that needs to be performed in the church, the end result is dependent upon the understanding, the concern and the faithful dedication of individuals who become involved in the performing of it.

Retreats for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women have provided the place (Mundo Vista) and the time to be quiet with God. It takes time and quietness to hear God speak and to commit one's self to become involved in serving mankind through the church. It takes time to seek the truth of God's will for one's life. The first overnight retreat for Baptist Women was planned in May, 1971. This retreat brought 186 women to Mundo Vista with a large overflow list of names.

A second Baptist Women's Retreat was planned for women 60 and up, but due to the overflow of the first one, it was opened to all ages. More than 100 attended this retreat. This was the first of any kind of meeting that was totally inspirational and the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by those who came. Many heard the voice of God and went back to the local church more humble and more determined to “adorn the doctrine of service.” There can be no doubt that these hundreds of women who have attended these retreats are performing through WMU the task so needed in the churches. The fact that each retreat was full and so exhilarating in 1971, plans were made immediately for two overnight retreats in 1972. The women came, and they came again, whether it was hot or rainy or cold. One woman said: “I came last year and almost drowned. I came this year, and almost froze, but I hope to come again next year.”

The Importance of Individual Service

In her report at the Annual Session in Wilmington in 1953, Ruth Provence said,

As statistics flash before us in an annual report of organizational development and activities, we must ever be mindful that behind the figures are the lives of many individuals who have invested time, energy, means and personality to the end that Christ may be shared

with others. It is the privilege of your executive secretary to bring together into one composite account the experiences of our ever enlarging constituency. Every individual woman who has participated in a Woman's Missionary Society during the year has had a vital share in the information I present to you. Sincere appreciation is felt for the leadership of local, associational, divisional and other state officers and for the cooperation and encouragement of pastors and laymen.

Almost twenty years later, the concluding paragraph of the 1972 report from the Executive Board by Sara Ann Hobbs stated:

Possibly the most significant work of Woman's Missionary Union has not found its way into this report. For the most significant contribution has been made by you, the individual members, as you have prayed for and witnessed to the lost in your community, as you have given countless hours to lead an organization for young people in your church, as you have taught fellow WMU members to pray more earnestly for missions and give more generously to missions. No report can really show the sacrifice of the giver, the joy of the receiver, or the blessings on both.

Recognition of the individual member by the leadership has not only served as an encouragement for what has been done, but it has also aided in developing a consciousness of the place of service — a prodder, better to understand the mission task which identifies with Mrs. W. J. Cox's belief that "the magnitude of the mission task becomes a challenge to the individual life."

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina desires that every member of every age-level missionary organization in the local church respond to the challenge of service and receive personal joy from ministering in the name of Christ through the four basic tasks of:

Teaching Missions

Engaging in Missions Action

Supporting World Missions through Praying and Giving

Providing and Interpreting Information Regarding the Work of the Church and Denomination

Contribution of North Carolina Leadership to the Denomination

Aside from the magnificent contribution Woman's Missionary Union leadership of North Carolina has made stateside, perhaps no other state has offered more services and cooperated more on a national level.

Presidents, executive-secretaries, other officers, and age-level leaders have contributed to missionary periodicals; some have written books. They have been used extensively on committees of Southern Baptist WMU — as well as on some SBC and Baptist State Convention committees. They have led numerous conferences at Ridgecrest and served on programs of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. They have served on the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board. They have served on SBC and state

agencies. One, Mrs. W. K. McGee, has served as a vice-president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The Service of Statistics

Statistics do not say it all. However, Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina comes to the close of 1972 with more missionary organizations than any other state — 9,744.

With a membership of 136,768 from 2,393 churches in seventy-eight of the eighty associations, North Carolina exceeds by 3,324 the WMU membership of any other state. Compared with Texas, the largest state, North Carolina has more Mission Friends, more Acteens, more Baptist Women, and more Baptist Young Women organizations. Compared again with Texas, North Carolina has more Baptist Young Women members, more Baptist Women members, and more WMU officers than any other state. These facts are important to know — *not to bragg*, but to be thankful to God for the professional and voluntary leadership and His Spirit working through them.

According to the goals which the local unions set for themselves there were 73 distinguished church Woman's Missionary Unions, 45 advanced church Woman's Missionary Unions, and 32 Merit Church Woman's Missionary Unions. Six thousand two hundred fifty-seven individuals received credit on the church study course including missions (graded series books), and missions program manuals.

Significant Comparisons

It is rather significant that in March, 1952, the theme for the annual session meeting in the First Baptist Church, Durham, with Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey presiding, was "Crown Him Lord" and that in March, 1972, the 81th annual session of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union convening in the Convention Center, Winston-Salem carried as its theme, "Openly Proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord."

Also significant in 1972, as Mrs. Gilmer Cross presided over this, her first annual session, she used the gavel presented by the Eutaw Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md., the same gavel used by Mrs. A. L. Parker ten years prior during the observance of the 75th Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union.

The Giant Step

North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union did not actively participate in the ReaLife renewal conferences promoted by the Baptist State Convention. However, the spirit of these conferences, the emphasis particularly on "Extend Now" were incorporated in the Giant Step introduced in 1972 by Woman's Missionary Union SBC, a plan for enlistment and enlargement. North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union set goals to make the great stride: 25% increase in total WMU membership, 25% increase in WMU organizations; 25% increase in WMU magazine subscriptions. Reporting on the year 1972, Miss Hobbs said:

The mood in WMU is optimism. Increases in membership and giving have fed this optimism. Response to Giant Step goals set by associations and churches has been encouraging. Evidences of spiritual renewal among women and young people have further strengthened this optimism. These encouraging signs coupled with the promises of God portend significant strides in serving the Lord Christ through Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina. It may be that in 1973 WMU shall take a giant step!

And so it well may be . . . if Woman's Missionary Union continues to adorn the doctrine of service by the living interpretation of "For ye serve the Lord Christ!"

Afterward

“Listen to His voice and follow where Christ leads.”
— Fannie E. S. Heck

WHEN God called Abraham to leave his country, friends, and home to go into unknown places, he promised to bless him, but the promised blessing was in order that Abraham might bless others. The declaration of one's being “blessed in order to bless” can be found in many places in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament.

“Be,” “do,” and “go,” were key words in the vocabulary of Jesus Christ as he walked the earth. “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit” (John 15:16a) is the clear call to Christian women which demands the same kind of faith as that demanded of Abraham and carries with it the same burden of responsibility to bless others. Witnessing to another in the name of Jesus is dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

Seal us Oh Holy Spirit,
Make us thine own from this hour:
Let us be useful, dear master
Seal us with witnessing power.

—Isaac H. Meredith

The late Mrs. William McMurry said in her *Spiritual Life Development*, “There is no power for the Christian service except the power that comes from God's Spirit,” and “The measure of our faith will determine the measure of our possession of the Holy Spirit.”

With the largest number of organizations and the largest membership of any state, North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union suddenly becomes most responsible for areas of failure, for unchristian motives, for failing to measure up to the great need of winning persons to Christ. Perhaps at this point in history, every leader and every member of Woman's Missionary Union needs to engage in the service of self-examination and seek more earnestly than ever God's will and God's spirit in making the “message” clear, distinctive, appealing.

The basic tasks of Woman's Missionary Union as a program of a church are both profound and challenging, but the basic tasks cannot continue except through a definite, consistent plan of education for persons of all ages. Where visible results are evident through tasks performed, these results serve to prove the value of continuing to plan, promote, and act.

Mission action has created a greater awareness of the involvement in personal ministry in the great issues of the day. For this and every life which has been touched in the name of our Lord, let the women rejoice. As Albert McClellan has said, "The churches must not forget that they are people at work in the name of Christ — visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, attending the needs of prisoners, clothing the naked" (*The New Times*). Where Woman's Missionary Union has met the needs in the spirit of Christ, "to God be the glory!" However, there can be no "let-down."

With thanksgiving for changes which have brought progress and an increased involvement in many areas, perhaps Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina can evaluate her work and recognize some areas in which further changes and/or progress need to be made. After many months of study and reflection on available records and after observing a number of local churches, I am alarmed over what appears to be a decline in several areas:

Membership. — Decline in membership has already been explained to a degree. At the present time, the membership trend is upward! However, one needs only to attend the associational and local Baptist Women's meetings to be aware of the small number of Baptist Young Women present. Where are they? Unless they can be enlisted in large numbers during the next few years, there will be a drastic decline in WMU membership during the next ten or fifteen years when many of the present active members will have become inactive. It is extremely hard to enlist young women who have not been enlisted in all or at least some of the missionary organizations offered during their childhood and growing years.

The Family Altar. — Time was when Woman's Missionary Union placed strong emphasis on the family's reading the Bible and praying together. Materials on how to establish family worship were distributed and definite goals were set for increases in the number of families establishing family altars. No one church program can evaluate realistically what is happening to the American home without accepting its proportionate share of responsibility for the stark statistics. Is it too late for Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina to try to save the home? Are there not yet certain ways of strengthening the home without altering the existing plan of work?

Career Missionaries. — At one time, North Carolina was the proud leader among the states in the number of career missionaries appointed. This is no longer true. The decline has been gradual over the years until no missionary was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board during 1970 or 1971. In 1971, one missionary was appointed by the Home Mission Board. Two North Carolina missionaries were appointed in 1972 (one a career and one an associate). In 1969, however, seven missionaries were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board and one by the Home Mission Board. Only a

portion of this number were career missionaries. Although we can offer some explanation for this decline, other states *are* producing missionaries.

The Foreign Mission Board has changed its policy of appointing single women career missionaries which has discouraged leaders from challenging girls and young women to become career missionaries, but the girls still need to be committed to the cause of missions. The men who accept the call to "go" need committed wives. The takeover of Royal Ambassadors by the Brotherhood and the change in Ranking System for the boys seem to have placed less emphasis on mission study and the appeal to become missionaries in far away places. The majority of career missionaries of other years give credit for their call to missions to their Sunbeam Band, RA, GA or YWA organization.

Many theological students go to the seminaries without a clear-cut direction of where their lives will count most for God. Could Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina prevail upon the seminaries to furnish some missionary knowledge and challenge to these students?

Mission Study. — At one time mission study in North Carolina was almost a "consuming passion" from the state level down to the local society. There were some complaints over the requirements for the length of time given to the study of a book and the goals set for the number of books to be studied and read. However, in many churches, both the time requirement and the goals served as spiritual stepping stones, and the result was missionary knowledge! Mission action and mission support need the undergirding of knowledge that comes from a concerted, intensive mission study activity. The three-hour time requirement has deteriorated in many instances to a forty-five-minute book review. Is there still some way mission study can be made more vital in North Carolina?

Small Enrollment in Youth Organizations. — Ask the local Baptist Women's Director to explain the small enrollment in the age-level missionary organizations and her answer will reveal that Baptist women have not been willing to lead these organizations. May God forgive us for "enjoying" each other while our children are deprived of missionary information and inspiration. As someone has so wisely said it, "Children are the permanent foundation for whatever lies in the years ahead." There is still great need for trained leadership to guide and inspire young lives.

The challenge to Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for the years ahead is to "listen to His voice and follow where Christ leads."

"Christ for the Whole Wide World"

"Christ for the Whole Wide World!

His heralds will proclaim

Salvation for men everywhere

With Jesus' blessed name.

"And we who cannot go

To bear his tidings far

Will pray for those who take the word and Witness where we are.

“We will give, we will pray
We will witness everyday
That the millions of the whole wide world
May know our Saviour’s love.”

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Important Dates (1952-1972)

- 1952—Change of WMU organizational year October to October
 1952—Marie Epley elected Young People's Secretary
 1952—First Statewide Departmental Institute held in Greensboro
 1952—Janet Wilson elected as field representative
 1952—WMU of N.C. discontinued request that local organizations submit a record of their gifts through the Cooperative Program
 1952—The month of February became the birthday month for Margaret I. Stuart
 1953—The Achievement Chart introduced in leadership institutes
 1954—"Missionary Fund? ? ? ?" became a ? ? ? of Miss. Fund.
 1955—First Prayer Chairman elected
 1955—First YWA House Party, Campbell College
 1955—Special chairman appointed to work with Baptist Student Union to promote work with international students
 1956—Transfer of RA's to Brotherhood.
 1957—First Sunbeam Band director elected — Beverly Neilson
 1956—Mrs. W. K. McGee elected president
 1957—Fiftieth Anniversary of *Royal Service*
 1957—Names of delegates omitted from the WMU Minutes
 1957—First World Missions week at N.C. Baptist Assembly sponsored by state WMU and Brotherhood
 1957—Decision made to cooperate with the Baptist State Convention in promotion of churchwide offering to State Missions
 1957—Fiftieth Anniversary of WMU Training School (Corner School (1963 and transfer of same to control of Southern Baptist Convention (1963 Merged)
 1957—Headquarters moved to Baptist Building 301 Hillsborough St.
 1958—Last year for publication of *Guide Book*
 1958—Formation and first quarterly meeting of the Executive Board of WMU.
 1958—Election of Barbara Rodman, first GA Director
 1958—Creation of three new positions: G.A. Director, YWA Director and WMS Director
 1959—Federation of Baptist Business Women Dissolved
 1959—First WMS Director Employed
 1961—Mrs. Leroy Parker elected president of State WMU
 1961—WMU Page in the *Biblical Recorder* discontinued
 1961—Title of associational superintendent changed to "president"
 1962—Hick-Jones Memorial Offering for WMU Promotion
 1963-64—Nine Leadership Courses prepared by professional staff
 1963—Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Women's Missionary Union, SBC
 1963—Fiftieth Anniversary of Girls Auxiliary
 1963—First library workshop held
 1964—World Missions Year
 1965—Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina contributed \$3,500 to bring six international guests to Baptist World Congress, Miami
 1965—The first Negro secretary in the Baptist Building was employed by WMU.
 1966—Mrs. Knolan Benfield elected president
 1968—Resignation of Miriam Robinson as Executive Secretary
 1968—Election of Sara Ann Hobbs as Executive Secretary
 1969—Dedication of "Mundo Vista"
 1969—State Mission Action Workshop; Mundo Vista
 1970—Year of Changes to implement the newer concept of WMU as a program of a church
 1971—Mrs. Gilmer Cross elected President

North Carolina Women Missionaries (1952-1972)

	Place of Service	Year of Appointment
Ellen Abernathy (Mrs. James)	Pennsylvania	1973
Ann Baird (Mrs. Thomas)	Virginia	1970
Dorothy Beam (Mrs. John)	Georgia	1957
*Peggy Brewington (Mrs. Tony)	North Carolina	1970
Virgie Tucker Brown (Mrs. Michael)	Wisconsin	1973
*Minnie Buckner (Mrs. Joe)	Kentucky	1968
Mary Campbell (Mrs. Yates W.)	North Carolina	1972
Arleen Creech (Mrs. David E.)	Maine	1971
Rebecca Daves (Mrs. James)	New York	1968—Resigned '75
Patricia Fay Ervin	Georgia	1963
**Susan Diane Griffin	Ohio	1975
Abalean Haire (Mrs. Marvin)	New York	1969—Reserve '74
*Faye Hales (Mrs. Lloyd)	North Carolina	1971
Peggy Harmon (Now foreign missionary)	New Mexico	1971—Resigned '74
*Frances Jones (Mrs. Durward)	North Carolina	1975
Margaret Jane Lindsey (Mrs. Harold)	Massachusetts	1975
*Novella McClung (Mrs. Jackie)	Georgia	1974
Betty McQueen (Mrs. Richard)	South Carolina	1969
Connie Markham (Mrs. James)	Tennessee	1974
Janice Moss Moore (Mrs. Terrell)	Ohio	1975
*Gladys Marian Osborne (Mrs. Durward)	New York	1975
*Nancy Parrish (Mrs. Robert)	Arkansas	1974
Peggy Pinkerton (Mrs. Ronald)	North Carolina	1973
Judy Maness Pope (Mrs. James)	Tennessee	
	New Jersey	1971
*Rose Anne Ramos (Mrs. Marcos)	Florida	1974
*Loretta Rector (Mrs. Michael)	Ohio	1973
Mary Elizabeth Senter (Mrs. George)	Indiana	1971
Louise Shore (Mrs. George E.)	North Carolina	1970—Resigned '74
*Betty Stone (Mrs. Kennon)	Kentucky	1975
*Lura Southard (Mrs. Marvin)	North Carolina	1966
*Wilma Sumner (Mrs. William)	Louisiana	1974
Carol Tesseneer Tate (Mrs. Roger)	South Carolina	1969—Resigned '74
*Marilyn Valdes (Mrs. Moises)	North Carolina	1972
Suthell Walker	Kentucky	1967
*Mrs. Leo Williams (Willie Mae)	North Carolina	1971
Sara Ruth Wilson	Louisiana	1960
*Missionary Associates		
**US-2ers		

Foreign Missionaries North Carolina (1952-1972)

Spencer, Doris Louis Scalf (Mrs. A. E.)	1952
Satterwhite, James Pumphrey	1952
Satterwhite, Altha Smith (Mrs. J. P.)	1952
Hill, Ronald Callahan	1952
Hill, Evelyn Pittman (Mrs. R. C.)	1952
Cowsert, Hilda Bean (Mrs. G. B.)	1952
Gordon, Audrey Jolly (Mrs. E. E.)	1952
Burch, Vella Jane	1953
Clark, Pauline Watts (Mrs. C. F.)	1953
Brock, Lonnie Ross, Jr.	1953
Carroll, Betty Cowan (Mrs. D. M.)	1953
Davis, Ruby Fletcher (Mrs. H. V.)	1953
Hern, Nancy Gunter (Mrs. W. O.)	1954
Hawkins, Fred Lee, Jr.	1955
Lennon, Samuel Judson	1955
Lennon, Harriett Orr (Mrs. S. J.)	1955
McCall, Louis Edmund	1955
Cline, Pervy Augustus, Jr.	1955
Snow, Laura Frances	1955
High, Katharine Younts (Mrs. Thomas)	1955
Glass, Ernest Wilson	1956
Phillips, Etta Jarvis (Mrs. G. D.)	1956
Brady, Martha Frances Yates (Mrs. O. W.)	1956
Goodwin, James Garland, Jr.	1956
Bennett, Troy Carson	1956
Tunmire, Faye Virginia	1956
Cooper, Nell June	1956
Poe, Eleanor Ostwalt (Mrs. J. T.)	1956
Thompson, Cecil Lavon	1956
Clark, Gene Austin	1956
Poe, John Alexander	1956
Wilson, Sarah Georgia	1957
Edwards, Alice Blankenship (Mrs. T. K.)	1957
Tabor, Charles Gordon (M.D.)	1957
Hix, Glenn Luther	1957
McKinley, Rebecca Knott (Mrs. H. T.)	1957
Smith, Loy Connell (M.D.)	1958
Smith, Eunice Andrews (Mrs. L. C.)	1958
Harrell, Ralph Webster	1958
Harrell, Rosalind Knott (Mrs. R. W.)	1958
Johnson, Donald Calhoun	1958
Johnson, Sarah Kennedy (Mrs. D. C.)	1958
Perryman, Maurine Tate	1958
Allen, Charles Aubrey, Jr.	1958
Allen, Mildred Short (Mrs. C. A.)	1958
Godwin, Colon Leo	1958
Godwin, Carolyn Smith (Mrs. C. L.)	1958

Favell, Clay Hudson	1958
Lochridge, Mary Manuel (Mrs. J. T.)	1958
Cannon, Mary Dunning	1959
Hooper, Dale Grey	1959
Jones, Archie Valejo	1959
Jones, Julia Hough (Mrs. A. V.)	1959
Moss, Zebedee Vance	1959
Moss, Marjorie Krause (Mrs. Z. V.)	1959
Reece, Zemery Don	1959
Roberson, William Thomas	1959
Roberson, Audrey Hanes (Mrs. W. T.)	1959
Knight, Howard Carsie	1959
Wiggs, Charles William	1960
Wiggs, Bonnie Belle Johnson (Mrs. C. W.)	1960
Phillips, Marian Hazel	1960
Farthing, Earl Davis	1960
Farthing, Lovie Cashwell (Mrs. E. D.)	1960
Goble, Harry Anderson	1960
Goble, Doris A. Cash (Mrs. Harry A.)	1960
Nations, Lois Sheffield	1960
Griffin, Doris Putnam (Mrs. C. O.)	1960
Starnes, Howard Cloyes	1960
Starnes, Mary Bumgarner (Mrs. H. C.)	1960
Compton, Alan Wesley	1960
Compton, Jane Carter Luther (Mrs. A. W.)	1960
Greene, James Young	1961
Greene, Judith Church (Mrs. J. Y.)	1961
Pennell, Wayne Arthur	1961
Cain, Violet Sharpe (Mrs. W. H.)	1961
Beckett, Charles Austin	1961
James, Samuel McFall	1962
James, Rachel Jean Kerr (Mrs. S. M.)	1962
Faw, Geneva Willis (Mrs. W. B.)	1962
Roberts, Hoyt Mason	1962
Ledbetter, Ethel Trivette (Mrs. M. J.)	1962
Ledbetter, Michael J.	1962
Calhoun, Lois Lynnette Valetos (Mrs. J. C.)	1963
Rogers, Carol Ray	1963
Palmer, Grace Powell (Mrs. H. J.)	1963
Brincefield, Clara Mae	1963
Hensley, Robert Carroll	1963
Hensley, Betty Jo Carroll (Mrs. R. C.)	1963
Tyner, Libby Alexander (Mrs. G. F.)	1963
Henson, Exie Vee (Mrs. L. G.)	1963
Holloway, Evelyn Strauss (Mrs. B. W.)	1963
Snell, Roy Edgar	1963
Snell, Sarah Brooks (Mrs. R. E.)	1963
Tribble, Sarah Watkins (Mrs. C. L.)	1963
Davenport, Bonnie Pearce (Mrs. S. W.)	1963
McElrath, Elizabeth (Mrs. W. N.)	1964
Travis, Robert Felts	1964
Lineberger, Marion Thomas, Sr.	1964

Miller, Paul Henderson	1964
Clark, Mary Louise	1964
Hood, Alton Lee (M.D.)	1964
Gentry, Jack Leonard	1964
Gentry, Ruby Hickman (Mrs. J. L.)	1964
Ballard, James Harold "Jim"	1965 March
Divers, Mary Evelyn Hensley (Mrs. John Daniel)	1965 March
Stocks, Rozier Lee, Jr.	1965 July
Allard, Joseph Charles	1966 March
Allard, Gloria Ellen Little (Mrs. Joseph Charles)	1966 March
Byrd, Harry Emerson	1966 March
Byrd, Patricia Jean Farrell (Mrs. Harry Emerson)	1966 March
Faris, Sarah Jo Bullock (Mrs. Alvin Kent)	1966 April
Walters, Doris Lavonne	1966 April
Lewis, Dorothy Cutrell (Mrs. Thomas Leighton)	1966 May
Frye, Charles Ray	1966 June
Frye, Sara Katherine "Kathy" Bradley (Mrs. Charles Ray)	1966 June
Cole, Roger Williamson	1966 June
Owensby, Ronell Lester	1966 July
Owensby, Annie Laura Pack (Mrs. Ronell Lester)	1966 July
Compton, Bobby Dale	1966 December
Nowell, Charles Grady	1966 December
Nowell, Barbara Ann Short (Mrs. Charles Grady)	1966 December
Stephens, Charles Thomas, Jr. "Tommy"	1966 December
Stephens, Helen Yvonne Yoder (Mrs. Charles Thomas, Jr. "Tommy")	1966 December
Bragg, Faye Grace Helms (Mrs. Kenneth Raymond)	1967 July
Buckner, Charles Edward	1967 July
Braswell, Margaret Joan Owen (Mrs. George Wilbur, Jr.)	1967 August
Furr, Max Taylor	1967 August
Barron, Linda Anne Rierson (Mrs. James Roland)	1968 April
Johnson, Vera Laura Rose (Mrs. Paul Burke)	1968 April
Elmore, Lanny Monroe	1968 June
Elmore, Brenda Jane Clay (Mrs. Lanny Monroe)	1968 June
Teems, Bob Aaron	1968 July
Rice, Herbert Warren	1968 December
Hoglen, Wilburn Cordell	1969 March
Parker, Gerald Keith	1969 June
Sorrells, Wayne Everett	1969 June
Sorrells, Virgie Elizabeth Kirby (Mrs. Wayne Everett)	1969 June
Rowland, Wade Russell (M.D.)	1969 August
Greene, Robert Francis "Bob"	1969 October
Yoars, Betty Catherine Alexander (Mrs. Ralph Arnold)	1969 October
Burnes, Ila Kathryn Batten (Mrs. Norman Norwood, III)	1972 June
Waddill, Blanche Lucille Howard (Mrs. Thomas Albert)	1972 August

Resource Materials

- Minutes of Annual Sessions 1952-1972
Minutes, State WMU Executive Board and Executive Committee 1952-1972
Reports of Executive Secretary and other professional leadership 1952-1972
The Guide Book (N.C. WMU plan of work) 1952-1958
The Biblical Recorder 1952-1972
Woman's Missionary Union Year Book 1952-1972
Woman's Missionary Union Manual — Whitlaw, Pate, Hamric
Woman's Missionary Union (history) Hunt
Woman's Missionary Union Program of the Church, Mathis and Dickson
Spiritual Life Development, McMurry
Educating Youth in Missions, McMurry
Christian Witnessing, Fay M. Barnard
Sharing Possessions, Annie U. Wright
Enlistment for Missions, Helen Fling
World Awareness, Sadie Crawley
Missions in the Plan of the Ages, W. O. Carver
The New Times, Albert McClellan

DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECRETARIES

Marie Epley, 1952-53

Janet Wilson 1954-57

YWA DIRECTORS

Sara Ann Hobbs, 1958-66

Linda Warren, 1966-70

GA DIRECTORS

Barbara Rodman, 1955-59

Sara Ann Hobbs, 1966-69

Willa Dean Freeman, 1960-64

Jolene Ivey, 1969-70

Nancy Bell Cousins, 1964-

SUNBEAM BAND DIRECTORS

Beverly Neilson, 1957-59

Bernice Popham, 1966-72

Delois Hamrick, 1960-1963

Pat Ritchie, 1972-

Mrs. Louise Burgess, 1963-66

ORDER OF ROYAL AMBASSADORS

B. W. Jackson, 1946-57

ACTEENS DIRECTOR

Jolene Ivey, 1970-

BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN

Linda Warren, 1970-72

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Ruth Provence, 1947-54

Sara Ann Hobbs, 1969-

Miriam Robinson, 1955-68

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. C. Gordon Maddrey 1951-56

Mrs. Knolan Benfield, 1966-71

Mrs. W. K. McGee, 1956-61

Mrs. Gilmer Cross 1971-

Mrs. Leroy Parker, 1961-66

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